**Guitar Tab Edition** 

Mark Knopfle

guita styles

> Complete, off-the record guitar transcriptions in tab and standard notation of eight classic songs

> > VOLUME

This unique folio - the first to present

COMPLETE guitar transcriptions of Mark Knopfler's

music, includes note-for-note playing versions of

eight of his most popular songs

The music is presented in both tablature and standard notation, complete with lyrics and chord symbols

expresso love
love over gold
once upon a time in the west
private investigations
romeo and juliet
sultans of swing
telegraph road
tunnel of love

### The book includes:

- In-depth interview with Mark Knopfler about his own playing style
- Details of Mark's gultars, effects and amplification
  by Ron Eve (longtime guitar technician) and
  Stephen Marchino (head of production at Pensa-Suhr)
  - Comprehensive guide to tab
  - Exclusive photographs of many of Mark's guitars

Also available

Mark Knopfler Quitar Styles Volume II
brothers in arms / going home / heavy fuel / money for nothing
planet of new orleans / the man's too strong / walk of life
you and your friend
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Mark Knopfler

# guitar styles



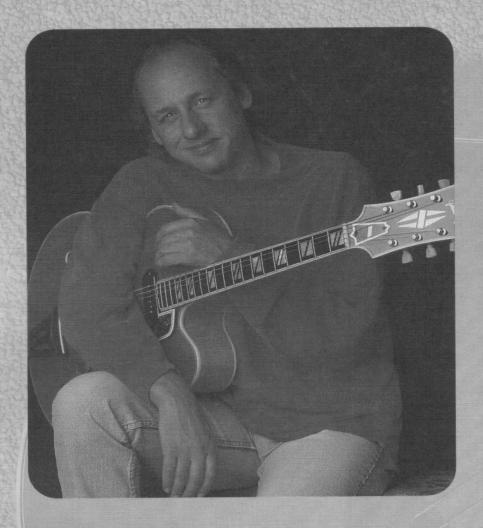
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GIBSON 'SUPER 400' MODEL CES c.1955, s/n A22087



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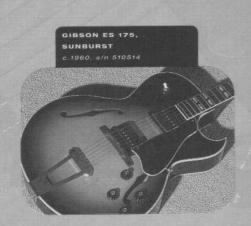
# Mark's guitar style...



"I'm left-handed but I play right-handed. They tried to teach me violin at school for

two or three years - right-handed - so by the time I was 15 I was into the habit of playing that way round. It has some advantages - It obviously means my strong hand is on the neck for a good vibrato. I can pull or bend three strings quite easily.

"When I was learning the guitar I used to play with a pick a lot - a pick is the biggest amplifier there is and not using a pick is the main difference in my style.

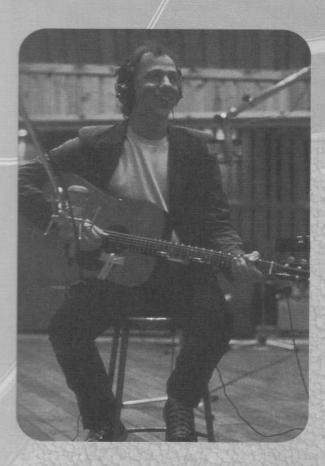


"When the fingerpicking style and flatpick style were fusing together for me I realised I was doing things with my fingers that I used to do with a pick, but it was more comfortable and more rhythmic with my fingers. This was well before Dire Straits - I remember being conscious of the style developing when I was sleeping on someone's floor in Turnpike Lane. They had a cheap copy of a Gibson Dove acoustic with very light strings and I realised the pick was becoming redundant.

"I don't play all that much on the road apart from the gigs. In between tours I get the chance to sit down and play a bit - I intend to work out more of a structured routine. I spent some time a few years ago getting some books out and studying a bit because I was being asked to play sessions with proper musicians.

"Working with Chet (Atkins) and other fine musicians like him really helped my playing - you're always learning when you play with good musicians. I like the idea of change - I don't want to stay static. I like the way I play in my heart and I wouldn't want to be anyone else, but I'm conscious that there's a whole world of playing out there that I don't do - it's bottomless, really. If I get a book out I'll find something and make it my own either by adding my own style or because I couldn't play it properly in the first place.

"When I'm working on a solo I don't really know how it comes about. I think not being able to sing means that the guitar becomes like a voice and you make it do things that you wouldn't do otherwise. Perhaps if you can't sing you push a little harder with your instrument but I've never really thought about that.





SCHECTER 'TELE', RED s/n S8703
This is a great rhythm guitar and often supplies the 'picking rhythm' that is Mark's trademark, exemplified on the track 'Walk Of Life'.



### SCHECTER 'STRAT', SUNBURST

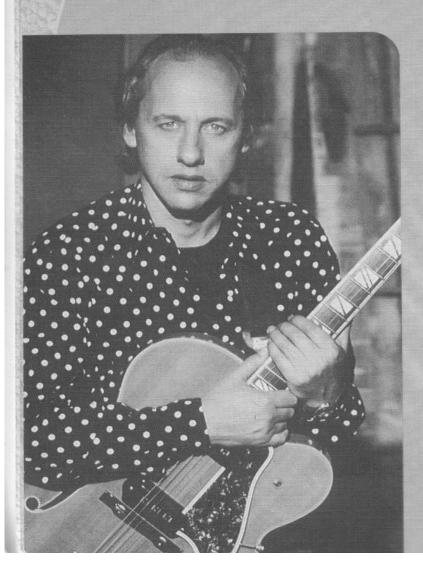
c.1980, s/n S8001

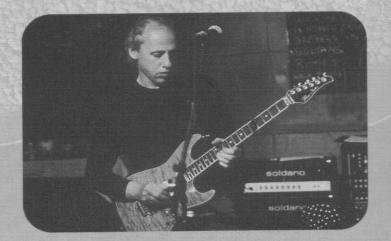
Replaced an earlier Sunburst that was stolen. Used on 'Tunnel Of Love' ('Making Movies') and 'Going Home' (theme from Local Hero). On 'Assassin Of Love' ('Miracle') it was used through a Fender Vibrolux connected to the Marshall cabinet to achieve the 'Duane Eddy' sound on that track.

"There are lots of guitarists and musicians with tremendous facility but they might not be musicians to me - 'musician' is a difficult term. There's a lot more to it than just technique. Van Morrison has great facility with his voice but not the same facility with piano or guitar but that doesn't matter. He understands what music is and his roots go very deep into Celtic music and the Blues. He is capable of great moments of fusion of the two - that's something that has very little to do with facility or book knowledge. Having good chops definitely helps but it's not the whole story.



SCHECTER 'TELE', RED
s/n S8218
The guitar that eventually
replaced Mark's Fender
Strat as his workhorse guitar
It features on numerous
recordings, for example
'Expresso Love' and later
the live versions of 'Sultans
Of Swing' and 'Once Upon A
Time In The West'.





"I haven't yet managed to get into a professional way of writing. I can see that it's essential for a novelist to do that. I can apply myself better than before but it's certainly something I could work on. I like to get into things where I don't think about music at all, like reading - it's very important to be able to get away from it so you can come back refreshed.

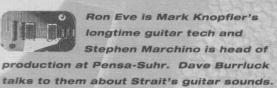
"I like to use dynamics in songs - in *Tunnel Of Love* the music drops down then builds up again. I'm not sure where I get that from but I must get it from somewhere. Most creative people are like sponges - they absorb things and then squeeze something different out. Some songs I like to be linear and stay on the same level like How Long and Calling Elvis.

"Dynamics are relatively easy to understand but other things I can't explain at all - like the outro of *On Every Street* where the riff repeats over and over. George Martin heard that and said it sounded like Puccini... Or was it Bartók? I can't remember.

"I remember speaking to Pat Metheny and Lyle Mays one day and they said 'Hey, man, How d'you write that *Local Hero* stuff? It sounds like it's a 1000 years old'. Well... I don't know. They're just tunes, you know? I can't even say whether songwriting is getting easier or harder for me but I do think my songs are getting simpler with fewer chords and less ambiguous lyrics. Although if there's a complicated way to do something then I'll probably find it."

(This article is continued in Volume II)





Mark Knopfler may be synonymous with the Fender Stratocaster but any one who's seen or heard the Straits in the last couple of years won't have missed the Strat-shaped Pensa-Suhr guitar that is Mark's main working instrument. The guitar was hand built by John Suhr in the late '80s. However, John no longer works for the exclusive New York based company. According to Stephen Marchino, currently responsible for hand crafting these guitars with Mas Hino (John's apprentice for six years), he is no longer making guitars but working with electronics wizz Bob Bradshaw in California.



GIBSON LES PAUL, Sunburst c. 1986 s/n 12849

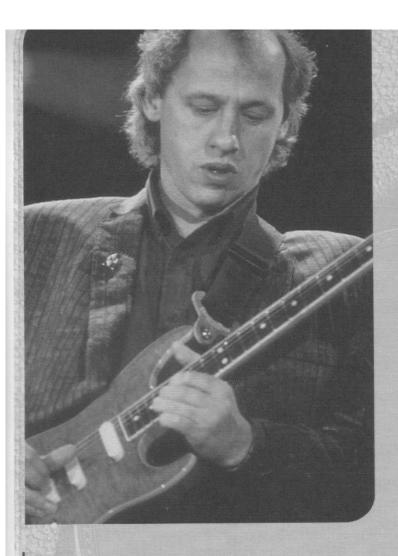
The guitar in question features a one piece quilted maple carved top. The body base is mahogany and it has a bolt-on maple neck with 22 fret bound Brazilian rosewood board.

"It's quite a departure from his previous guitars" explains Ron Eve, "the shape of the neck is more of an oval, more an early slim Gibson neck than a Fender. It's slightly wider too and the frets are very high, Mark was "persuaded" to go for a larger fret both in height and width. The action is set pretty much as low as you can go with the barest hint of buzz. Mark plays quite lightly, not heavy at all."



### FENDER STRATOCASTER, RED

c.1960, s/n 68354
Bought second-hand, it had
a 'natural wood' finish that
was quickly replaced with
red lacquer! This guitar
features in most of the early
Dire Straits' recordings,
brought out of retirement for
the recording of 'On Every
Street' through a Soldano
head, Marshall 4 x 12,
modified with a TC2240 DDL





PENSA-SUHR, FLAME MAPLE

Mark's favourite guitar!
Designed on a napkin over
coffee with luthier John Suhr
and Mark's friend and New
York music store owner
Rudi Pensa. It features a
magnificent one-piece
contoured maple top backed
by one piece of mahogany
and a rosewood neck. Fitted
with EMG active pick-up
system with switchable
mid-boost. Amongst many
recent recordings it has been
used on 'Feel like Going
Home' ('Notting Hillbillies'),
'Love You Too Much' (Jeff
Healy) and 'Old Habits Are
Hard To Break' (Ronnie
Milsap). Played through a
Soldano and a Marshall 4 x 12
on 'Heavy Fuel', 'Planet Of
New Orleans' and 'Calling
Elvis' (all on 'On Every

Stephen Marchino adds that "the guitars are fretted under tension so very little dressing is required, that's why they play so well. The actual fretwire is Dunlop 6105, tall but not as wide as the 6100. We found the intonation wasn't as good with the really wide wire. The guitar is finished with a special, very thin lacquer by Pat Wilkens."

The double locking Floyd Rose is an unusual inclusion for Knopfler and although the trem is back routed "it's actually screwed up to the body," says Ron. "It's fixed so it's really a non-trem guitar. The main reason is because of the fine tuning at the bridge. The guitar's tuning stability is remarkable."

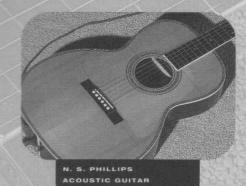
The guitar is fitted with EMG pick-ups, a full sized '85 humbucker at bridge and the single coil sized SA humbuckers in middle and neck positions. "We use a special technique" (a combination of a capacitor and resistor) "to simulate a split coil on the bridge humbucker when it's switched to position four (bridge and middle pick-up) on the five-way, lever type pick-up selector," continues Stephen.

Apart from a master volume and master tone control, a mid-boost - the EMG SPC Presence control - is activated by pull/push switch in the tone pot. "Mark used that tone for the heavier sounds - like on *Heavy Fuel* and *Calling Elvis* - typically with the bridge humbucker and middle pick-up selected" adds Ron. It's tuned standard with D'Addario .009" to .042" gauge strings. Mark has a spare black Pensa-Suhr, again Stratshaped, this time with flat topped all mahogany bound body. According to Ron, "the neck has a flatter curve, but the fret set up is the same and the Floyd Rose is functional. He uses that for *So Far Away*.



"Mark also has a 'prototype' Pensa-Suhr, tuned to open G (from low to high D-G-D-G-B-D) and used on *Two Young Lovers*. It was the first guitar John Suhr built under the Pensa-Suhr name and has a 001 serial number".

Another John Suhr guitar looks like a white Fender Strat. "I think we should come clean about that" says a sheepish sounding Ron. "It's got all the Fender transfers and appears to be a Custom Shop guitar but it's not really. Parts of it are Fender - some parts aren't, John Suhr put it together so I'm not sure exactly what's what. It's a standard Strat format though with three single coils and vintage tremolo". Mark used that on *The Bug* on the last tour and album.





### RAMIREZ SPANISH

1990, s/n A2441
Used on the 'On Every Street'
tour for 'Private Investigations'.
It has a built-in bridge pick-up
which is adjustable for

individual string tone a

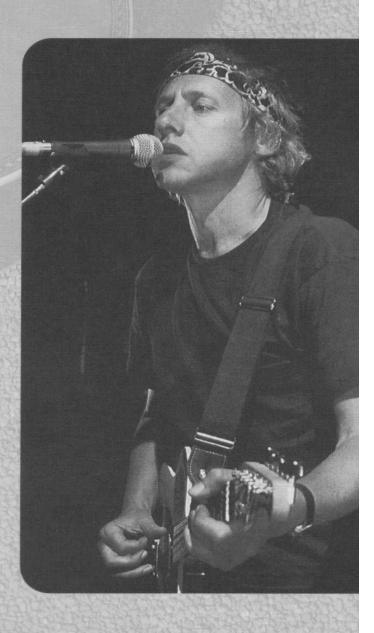
volume.



### GIBSON 'CHET ATKINS', NYLON STRUNG, SOLID BODY

'Classical' electric guitar, it has a piezo pick-up unde the bridge. Used extensive live for 'Private Investigatio

until the purchase of the Ramirez Spanish guitar



Ron is keen to point out that although certain guitars were used for certain numbers in the studio, and it seems Mark has a lot of Strat-type guitars, each one has its own character.

"So we'll get a basic style of guitar through a basic amp set-up then play with them a bit.

The two most important tools in a guitar tech's kit are a crystal ball and a magic wand - I have to predict what Mark will use. If I've heard the songs prior to the session I'll have a good idea of where he's heading. As for amps, I always take in the Soldanos as well as a range of things like old Fender amps.



NATIONAL 'DUOLIAN',
STYLE O, STEEL GUITAR
c.1939. s/n 81844
Open tuning, D-G-D-G-B-D
(low to high), with capo often
on 2nd or 3rd fret. This guitar
is the one on the front of the
'Brothers in Arms' album.
As used on 'Romee And
Juliet' and 'Telegraph Road'.



MODEL CES
c.1953, s/n 15808
In Mark's words, 'A man's
guitarl'. Of the same type
associated with Elvis Presley
and very rare - ie, valuable.
Used on 'Your Latest Trick'
(for the live concert) and
'Fade To Black' ('On Every
Street') for its 'plummy'
jazz sound using a vintage
Fender Vibroverb combo.
The pick-ups used rare
'Alnico' magnets.

"On the last album we mainly used Soldano, except, for example, Fade to Black, where we used his '53 Gibson Super 400 through one of the vintage Fenders, I believe a Vibroverb.

"That Gibson is worth around £20,000. I wasn't at all happy about taking that on the road I can assure you. Accidents do happen, not to mention theft, so it stayed in its flight case till about five minutes before the show, then put straight back again.

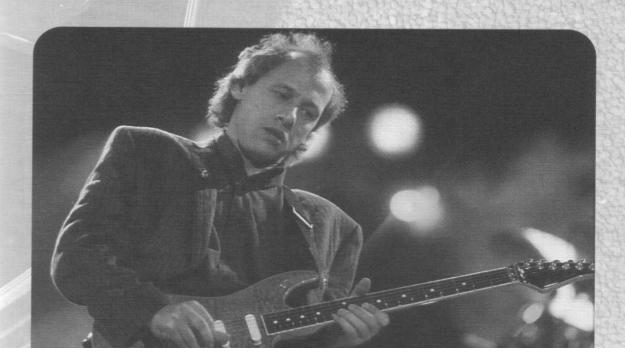


"Live, to an extent, we have duplicate guitars but others aren't covered, like Mark's National - we only have one of those. I've certainly had a couple of tense moments on tour - I took the Pensa-Suhr out of the guitar rack to pass it to Mark, I thought I felt something wrong but it was too late to check. I gave it to him but what had happened was that the top string had caught on the stand and stretched - the top E was down about a tone - but by then he was on stage.

"Mark is certainly a hard task master and has high expectations and is perhaps a little intolerant to things going wrong. Looking back over the number of shows and the number of guitar changes - there's a change each song, sometimes two, then there's amp and effects changes - we're talking less than 1% when there may be a small problem. For example, once he walked on, put his foot on the Ernie Ball volume pedal and the string mechanism broke. Now I'd checked that before the show - I couldn't predict it - and he got a bit upset."

of course strings are changed every show and Ron will do basic work on the guitars where necessary, a fact noted by Pensa-Suhr's Stephen Marchino who remarked how well Ron looked after the guitars. "I'm not a guitar expert, I'll do neck and fret adjustments but I wouldn't dream of doing a re-fret. I haven't needed to but I remember about three quarters of the way through a tour considering a re-fret on one guitar but it's such a major thing and it really changes the feel of the guitar. Mark is extremely sensitive to the set-up so I try and avoid it. I had to dress the frets, due to wear, on the Pensa-Suhr and that was fairly tense for a week."

(This article is continued in Volume II)





# sultans of swing

Words & Music by Mark Knopfler



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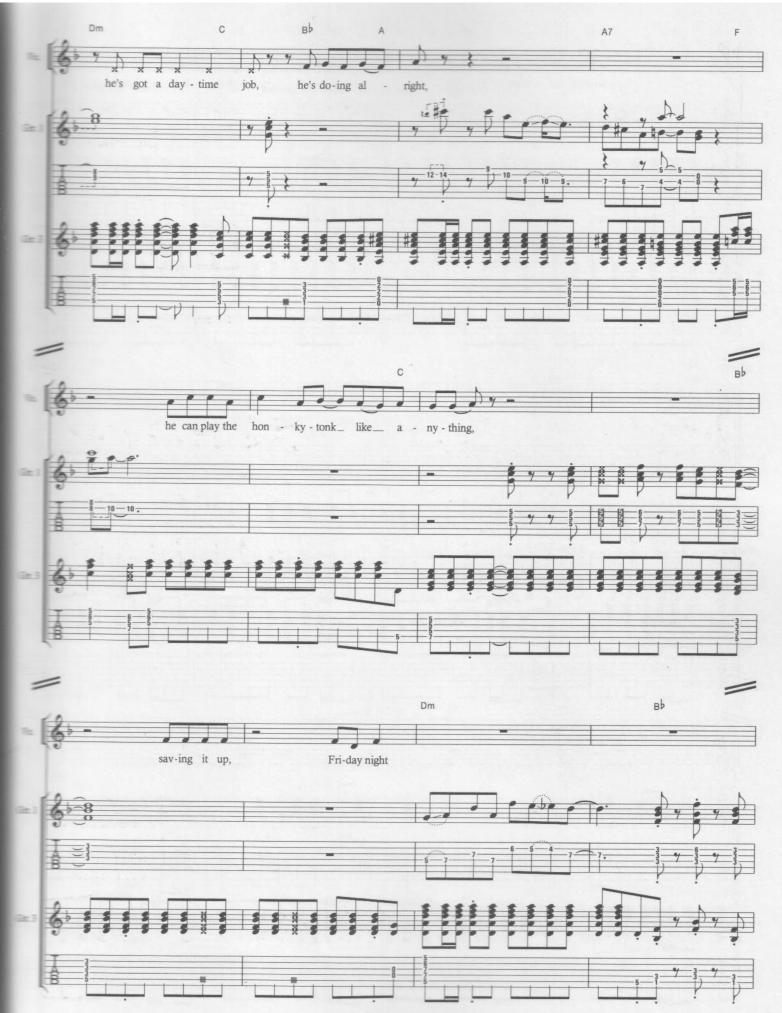




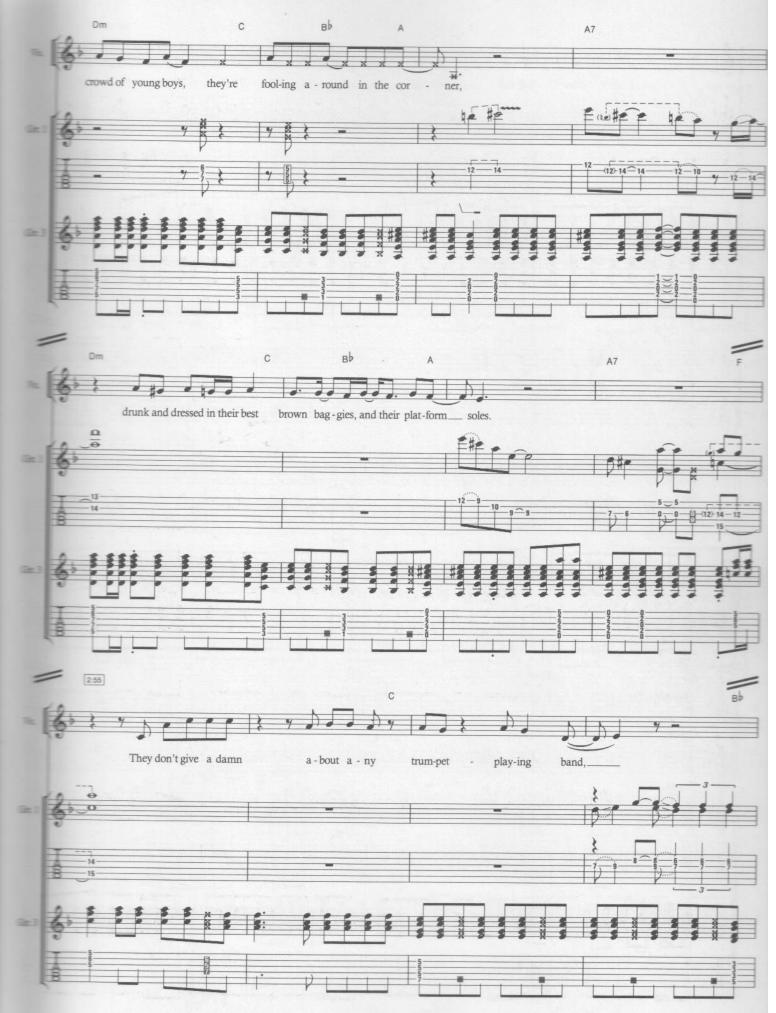




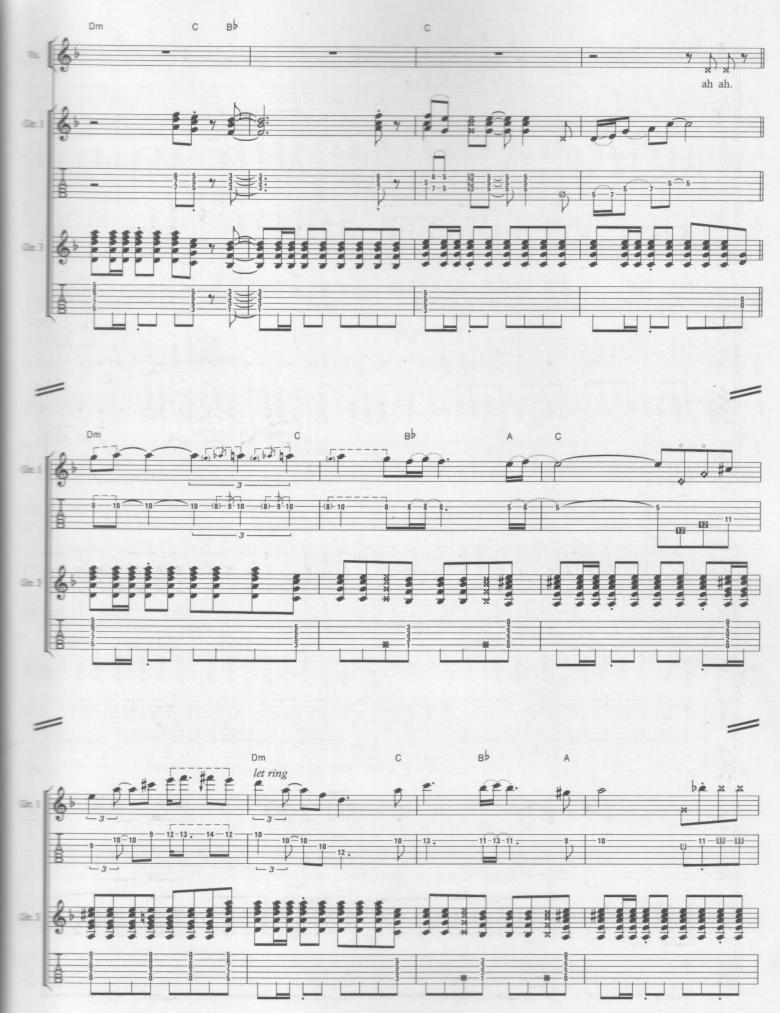








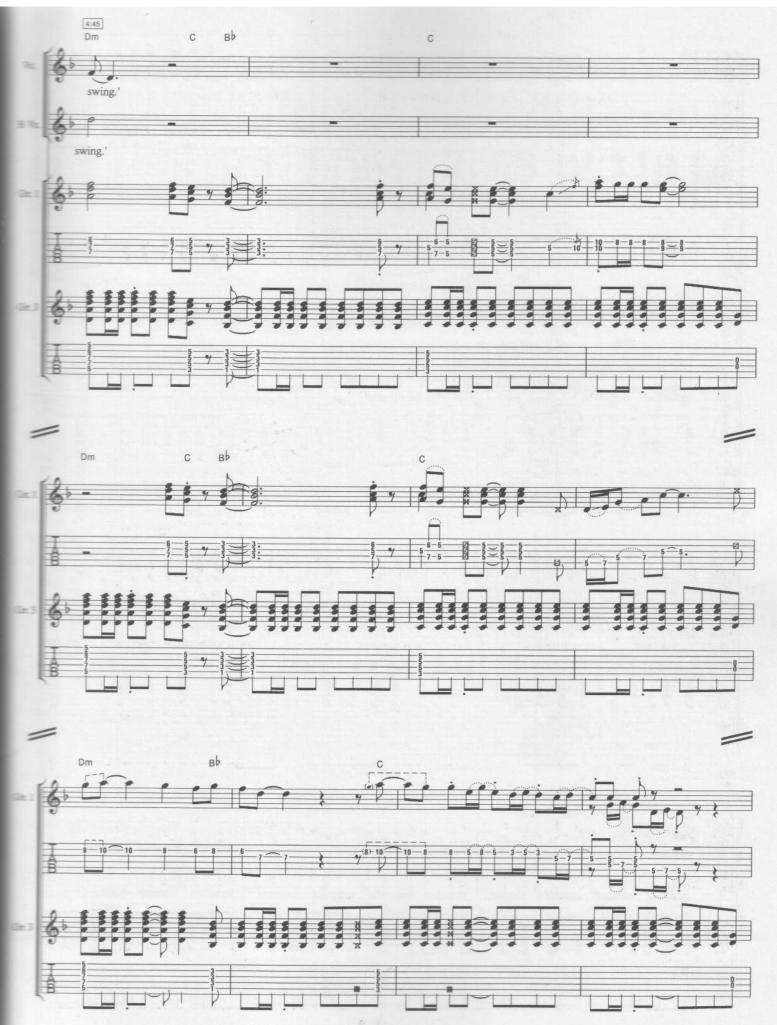


















# once upon a time in the west

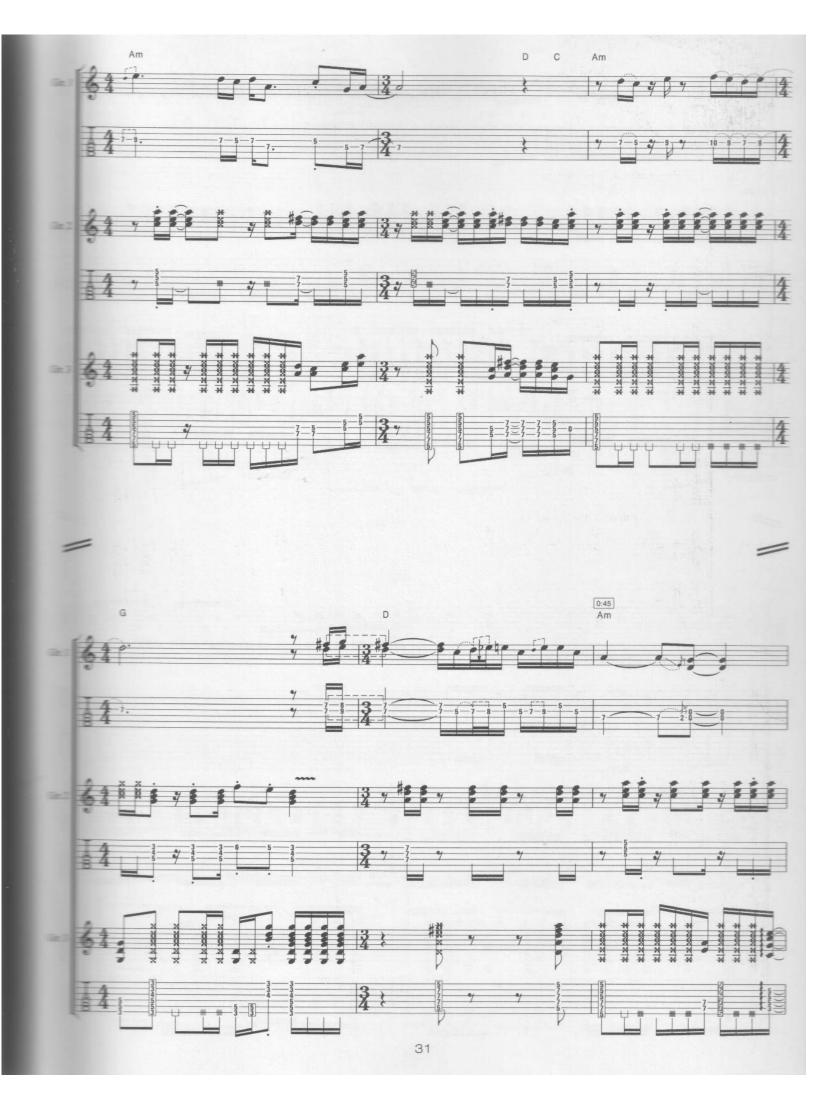
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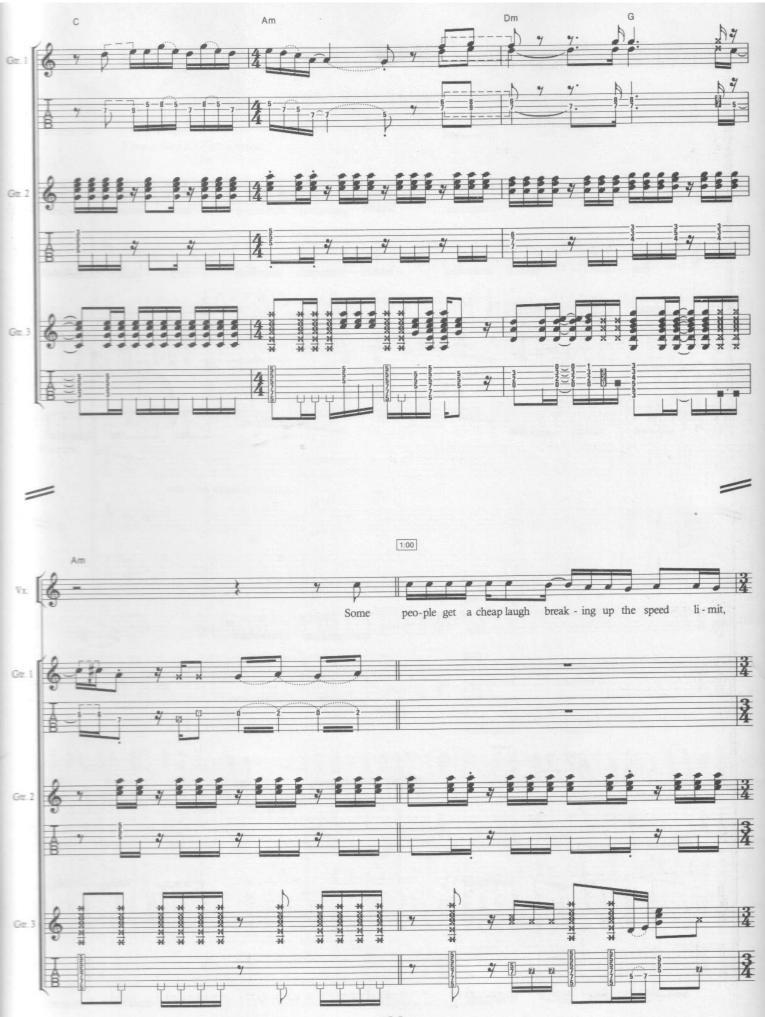


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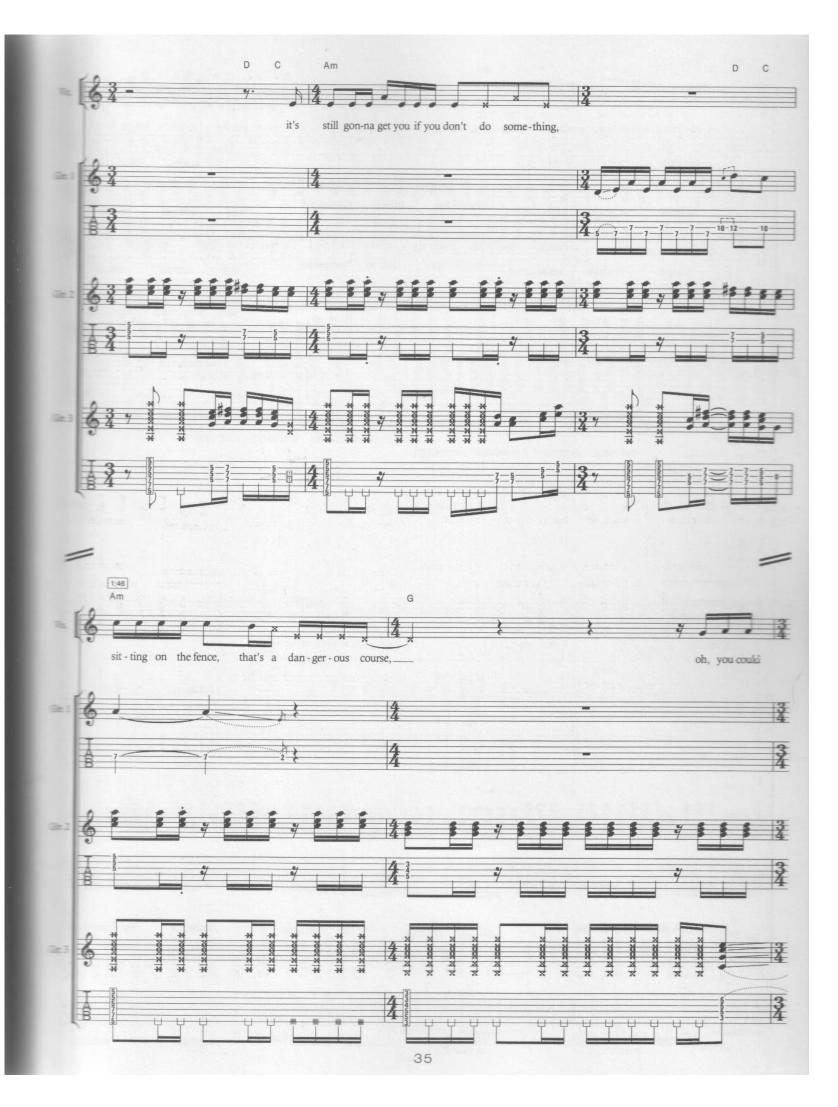
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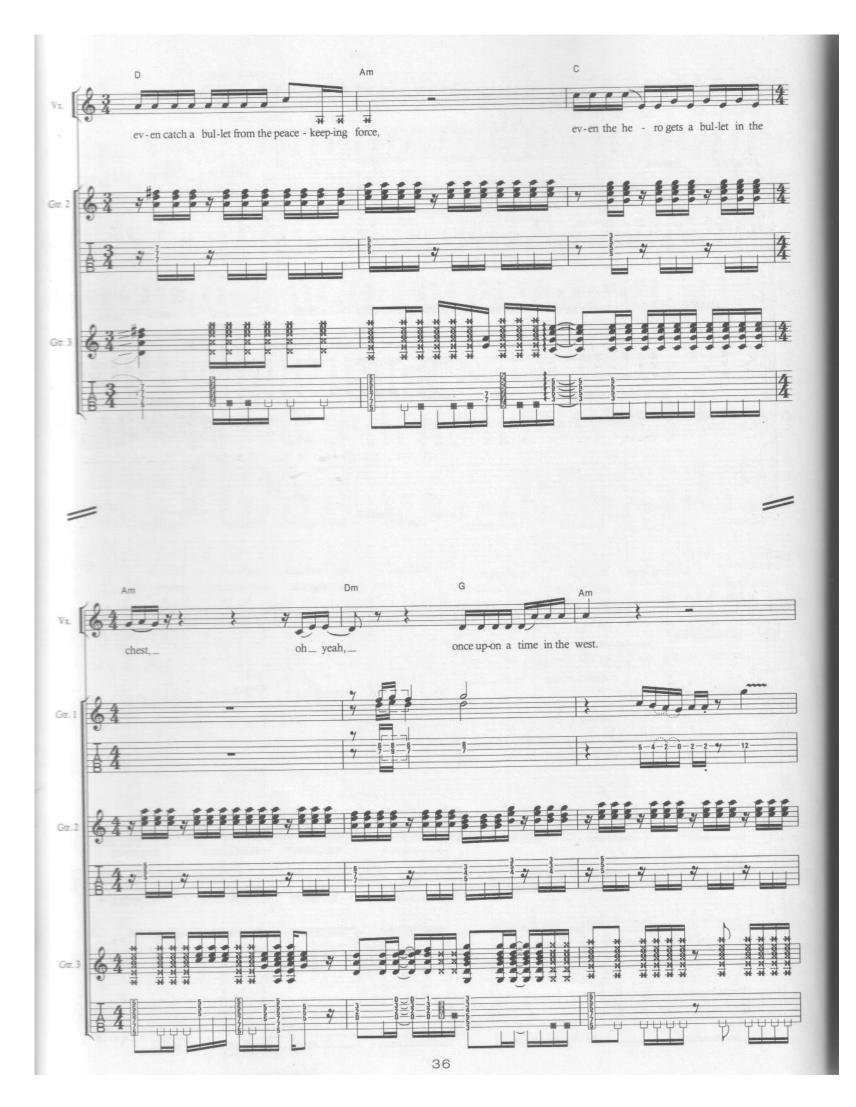


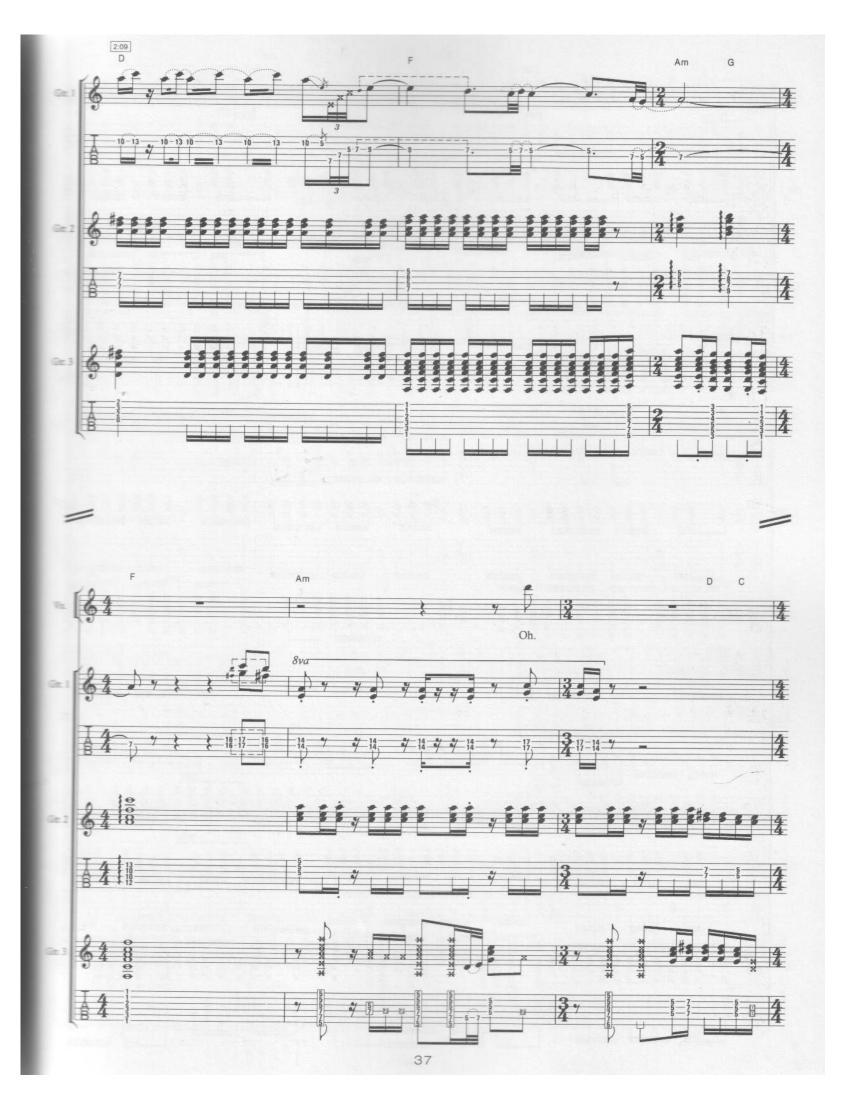




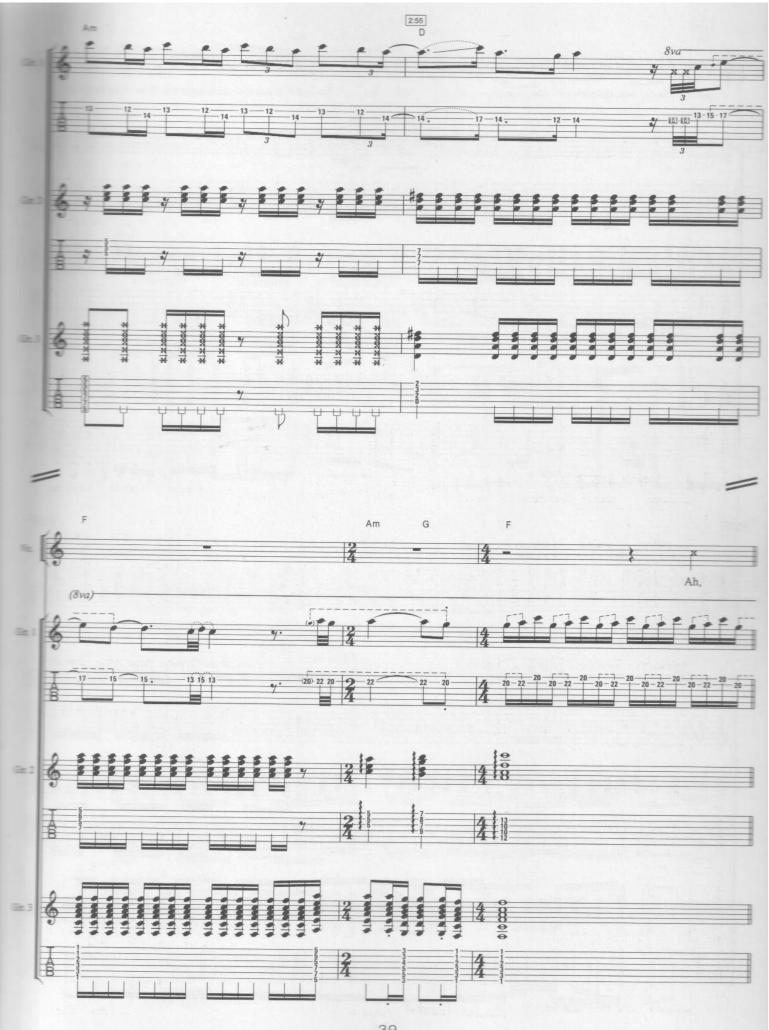


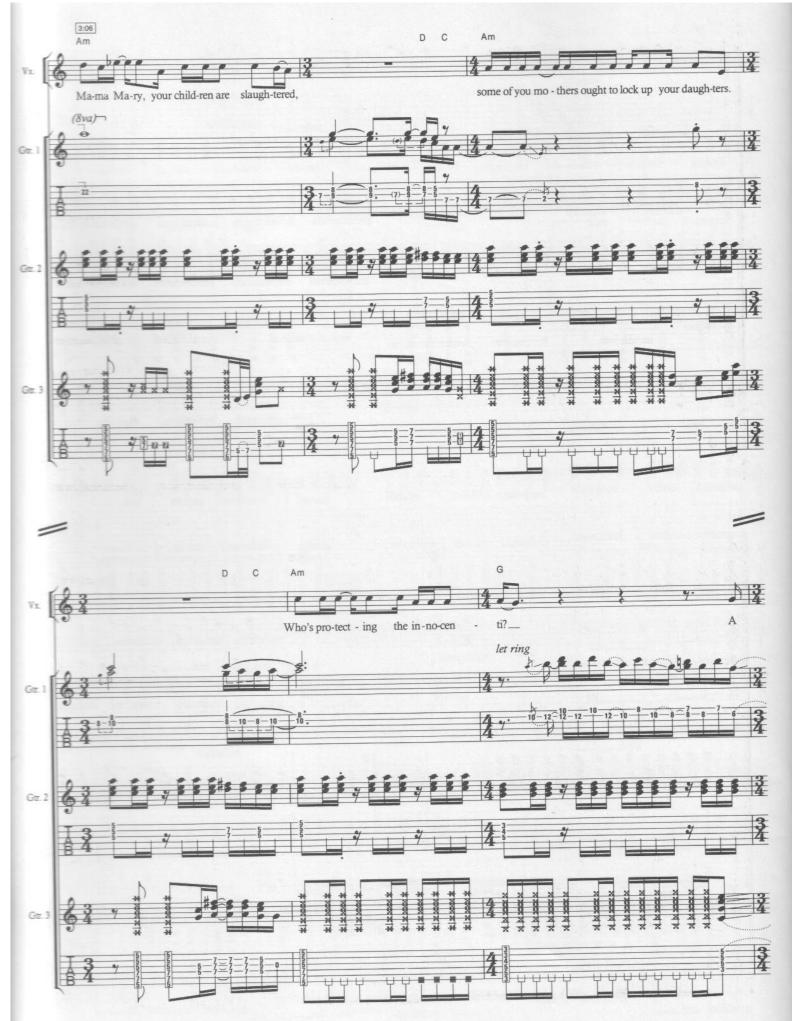


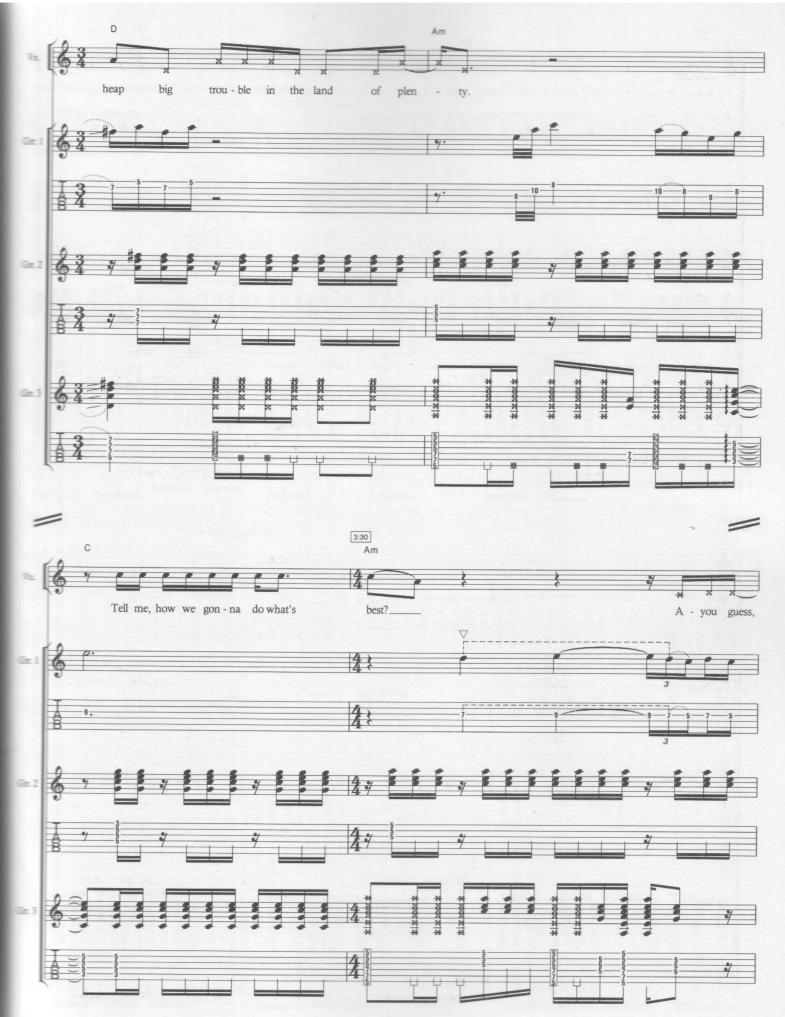


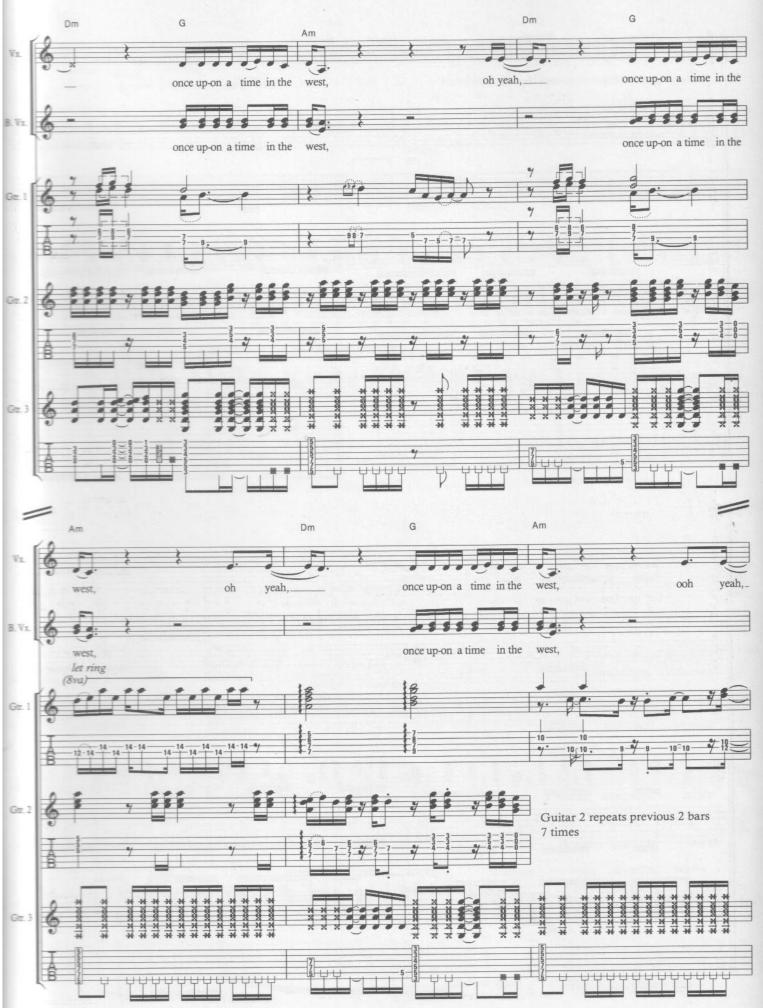




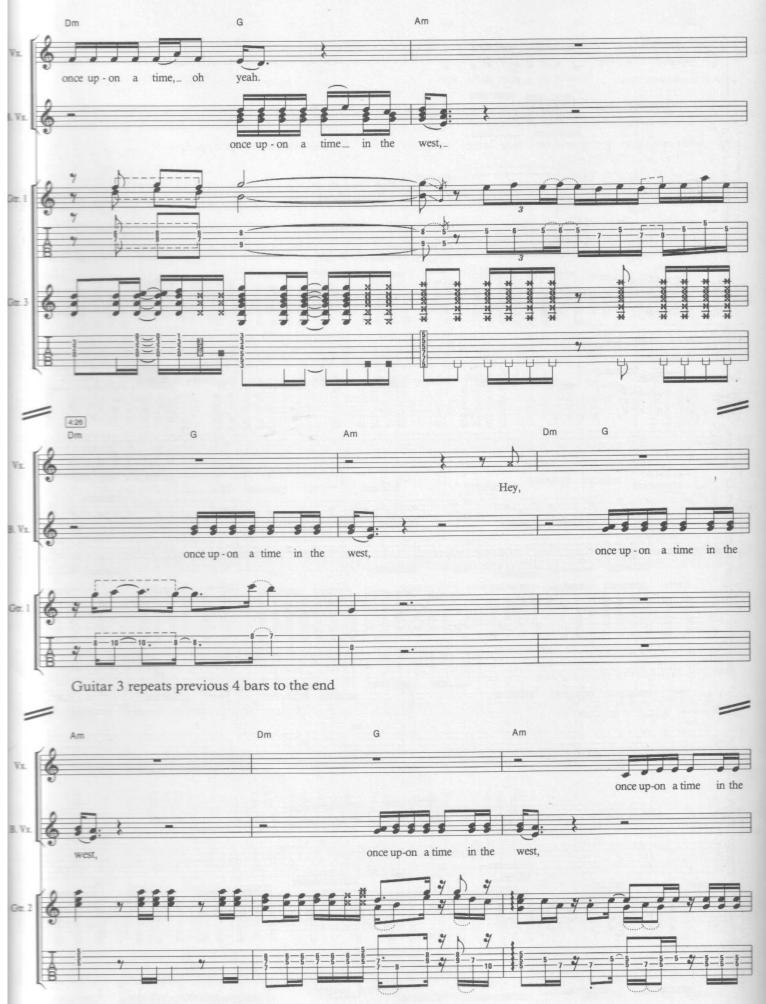


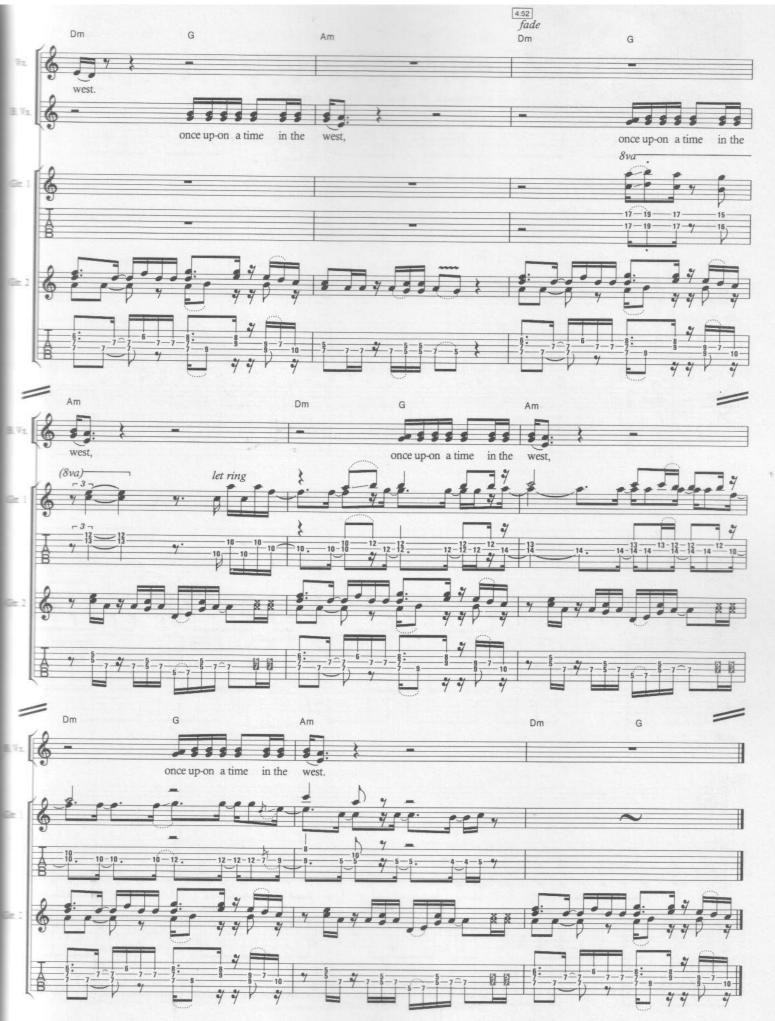














## expresso love

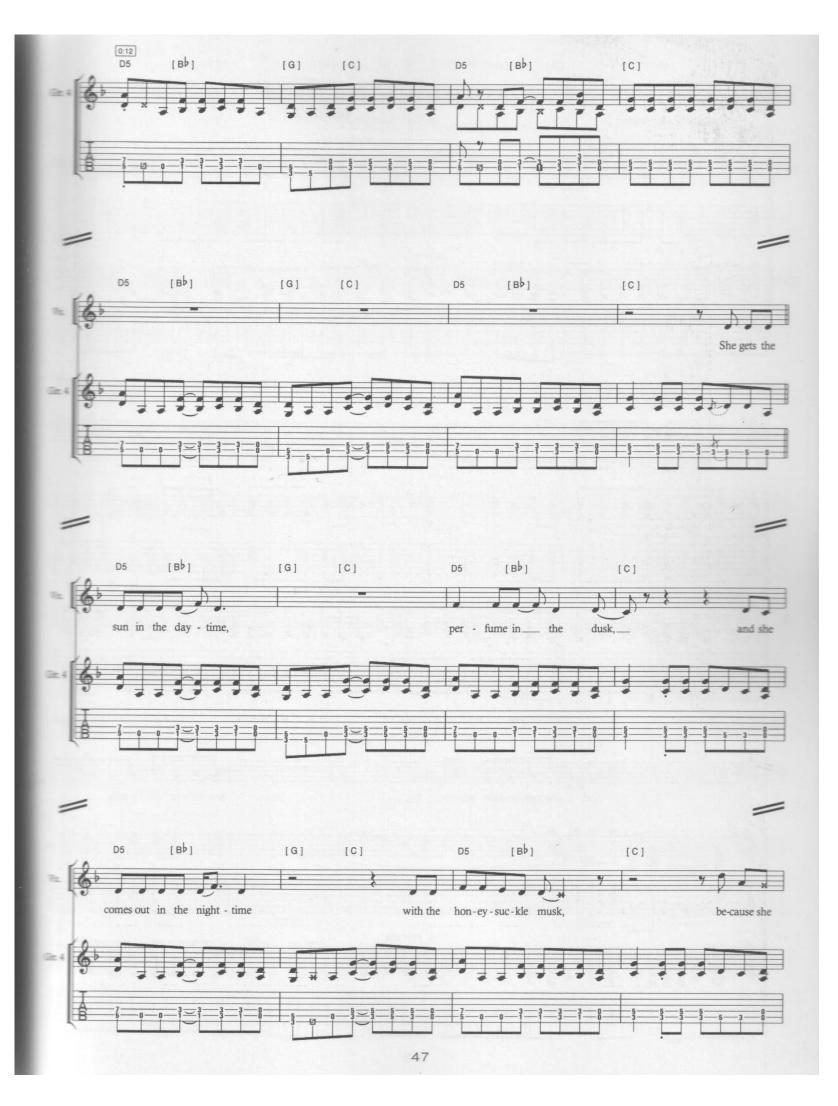
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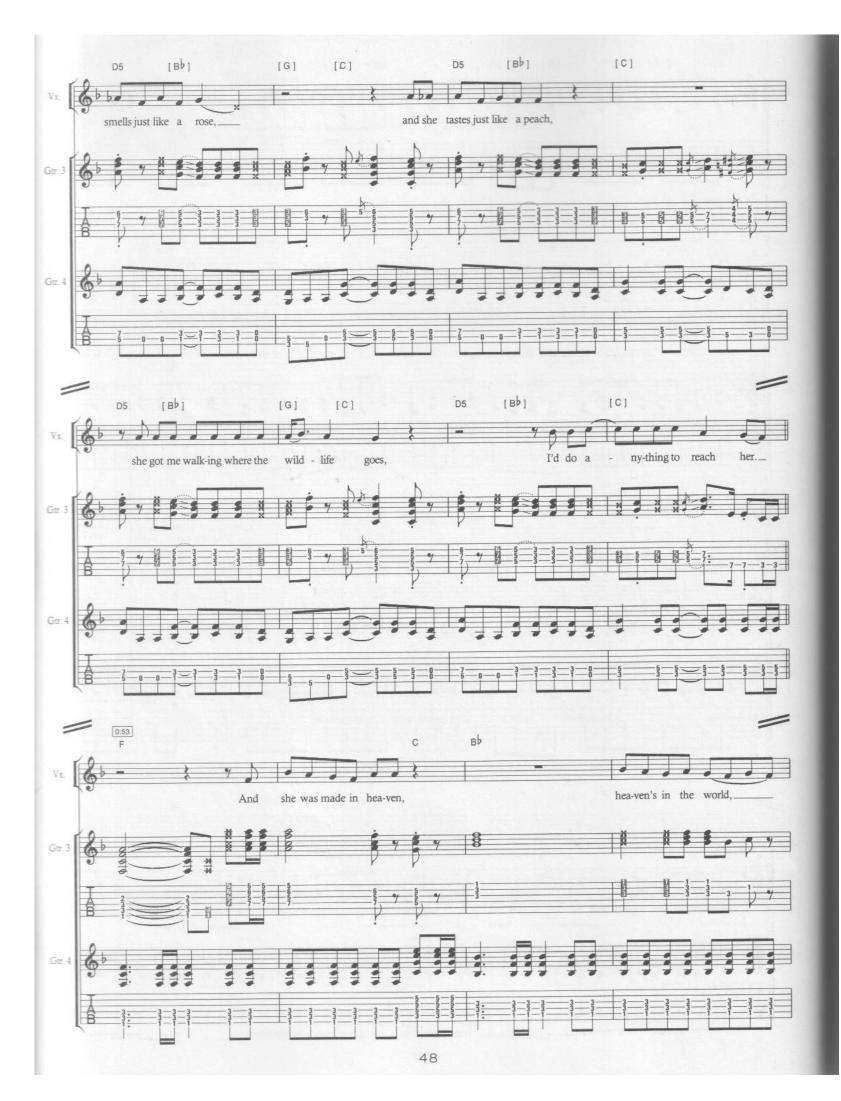


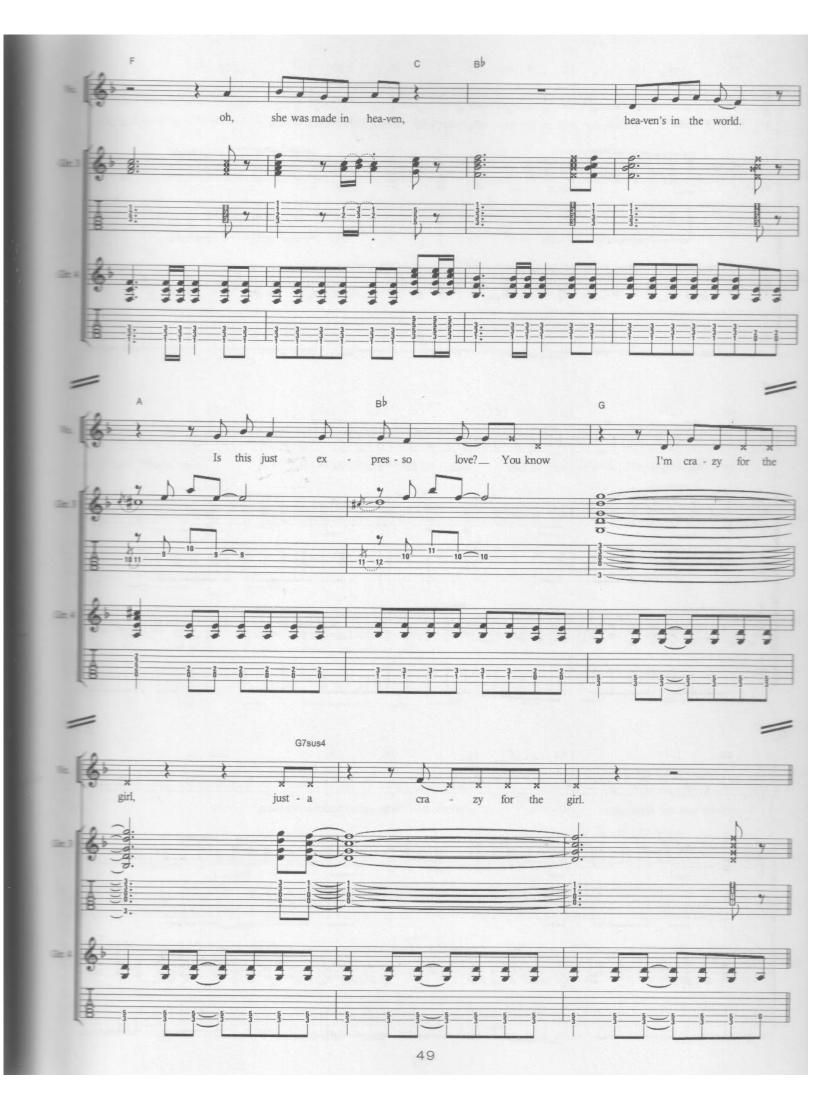
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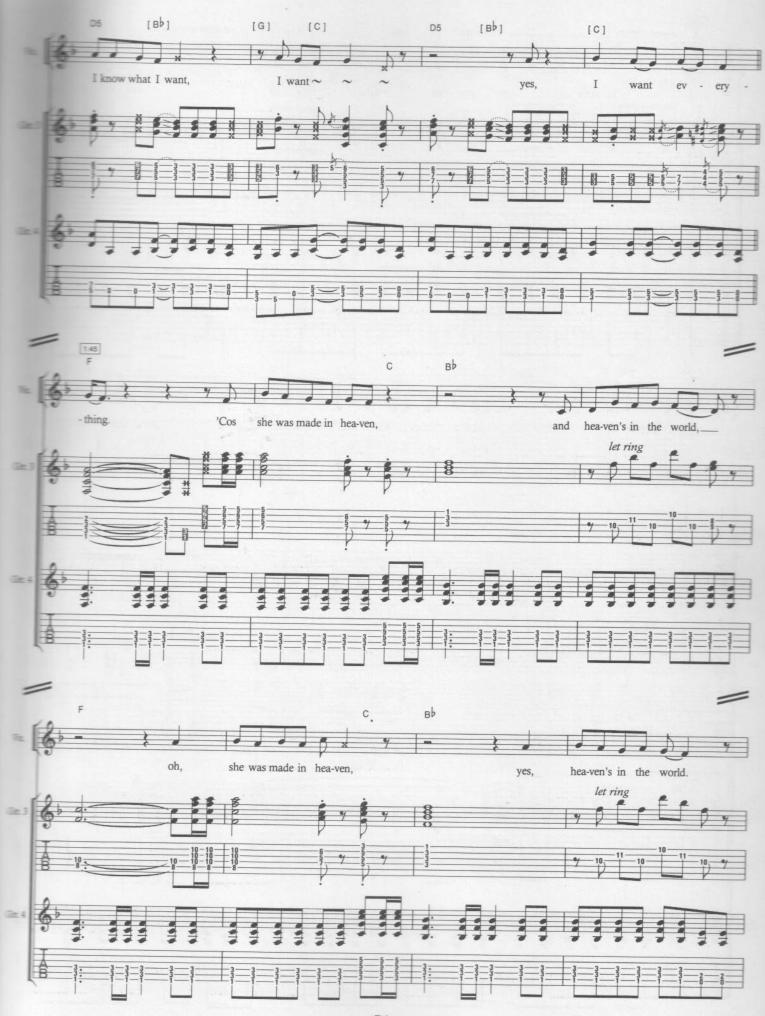
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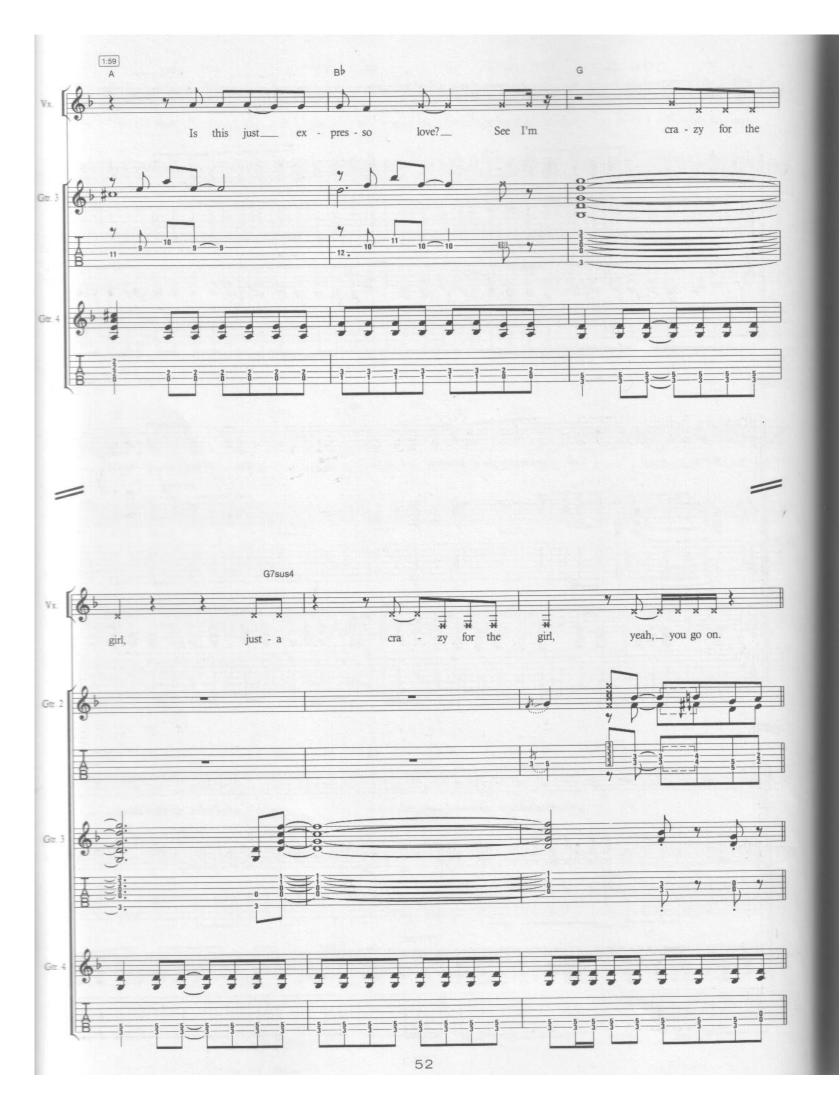


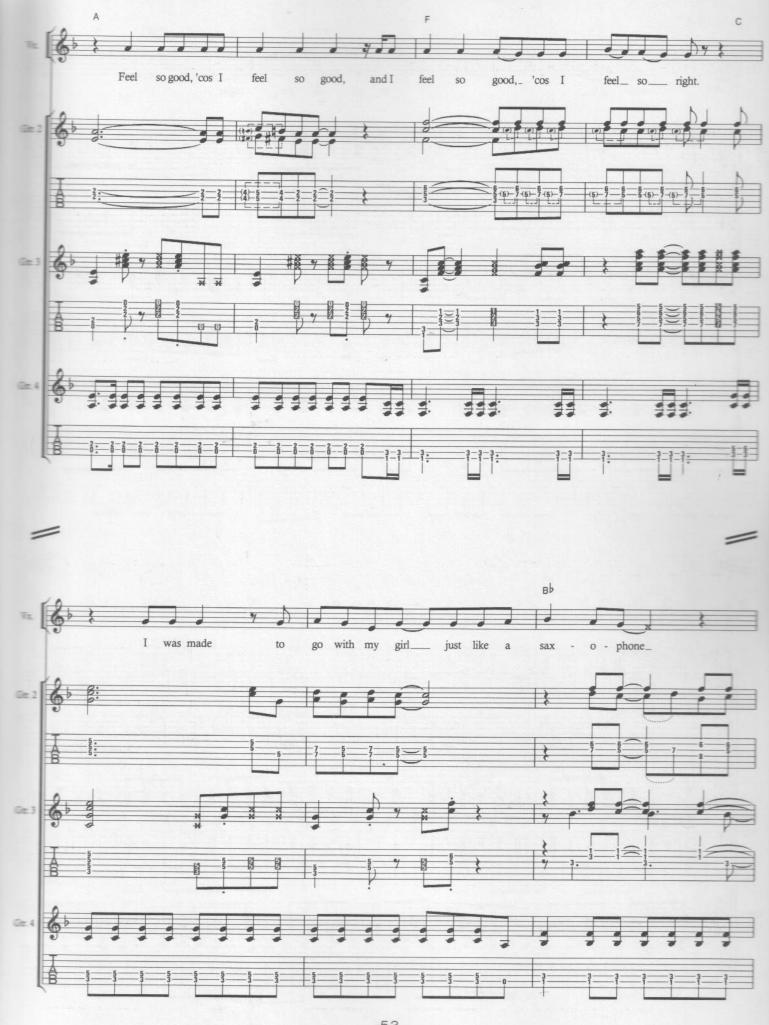


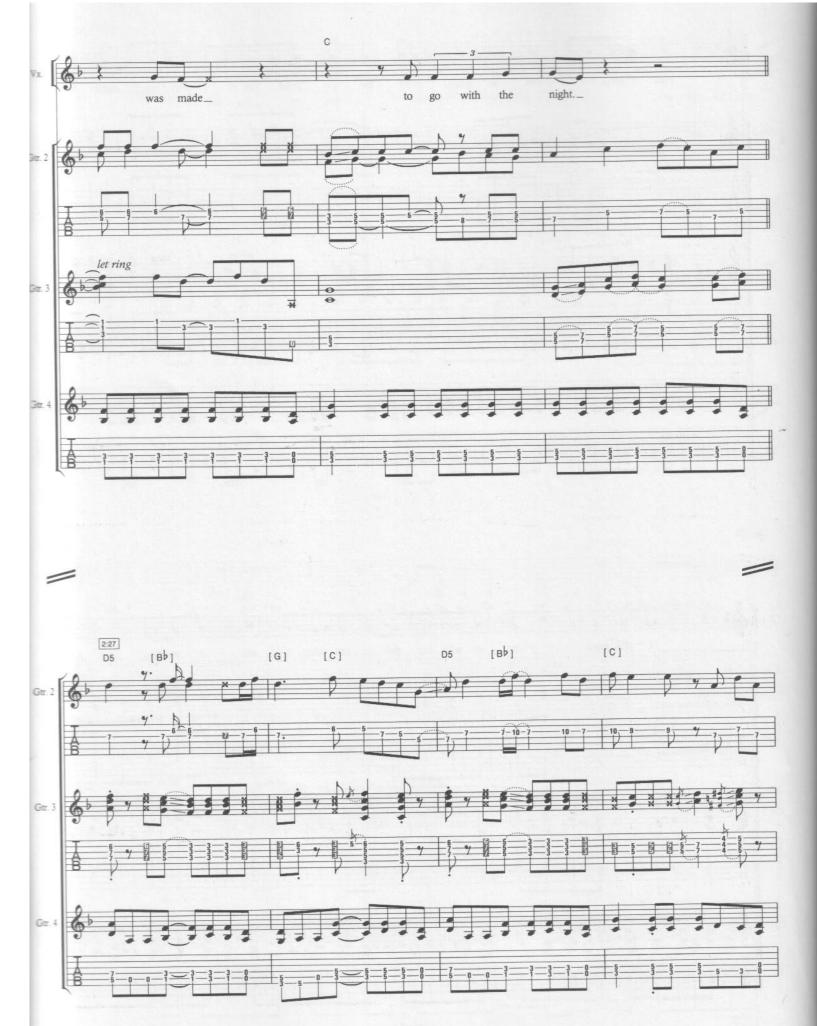


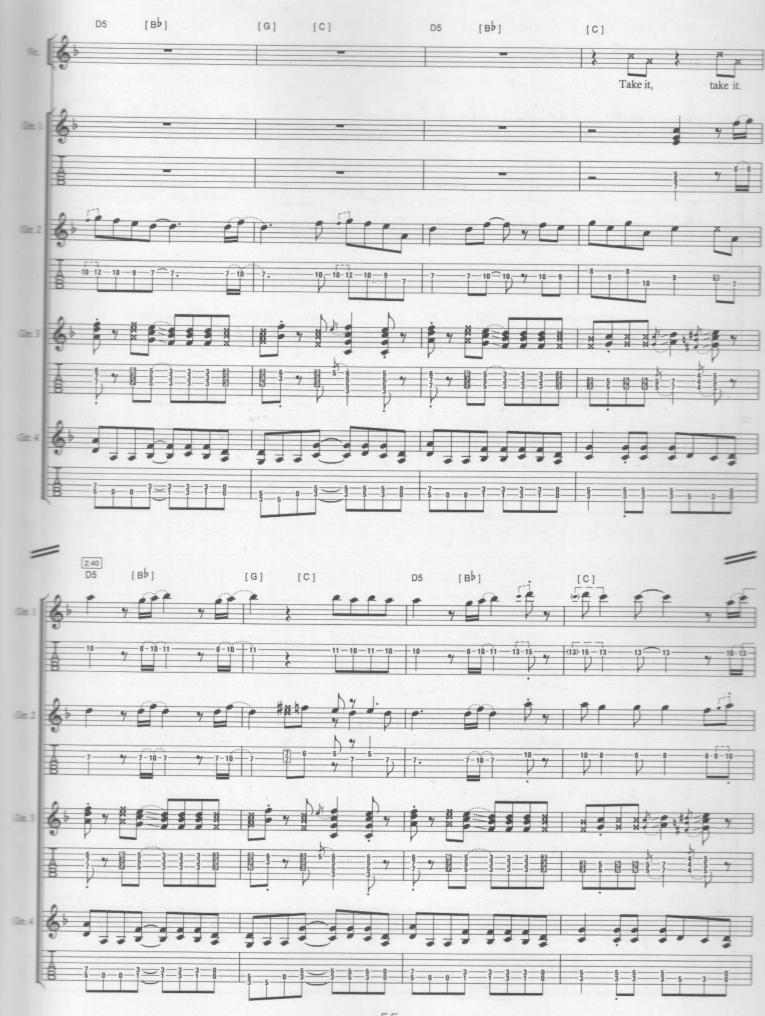


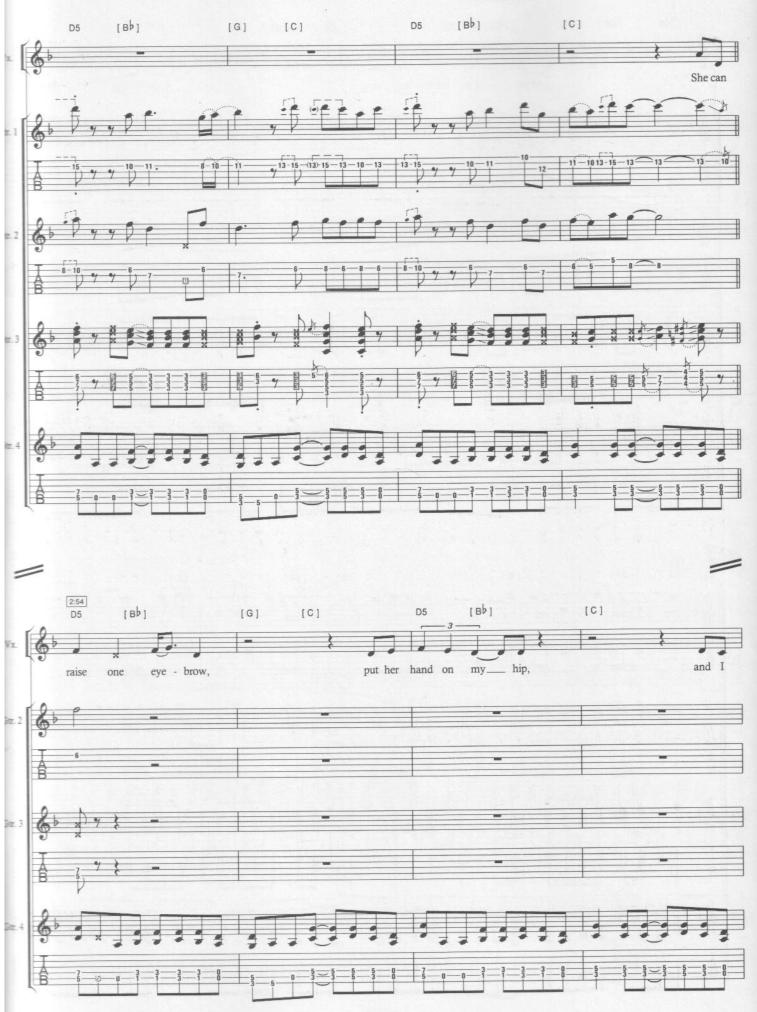








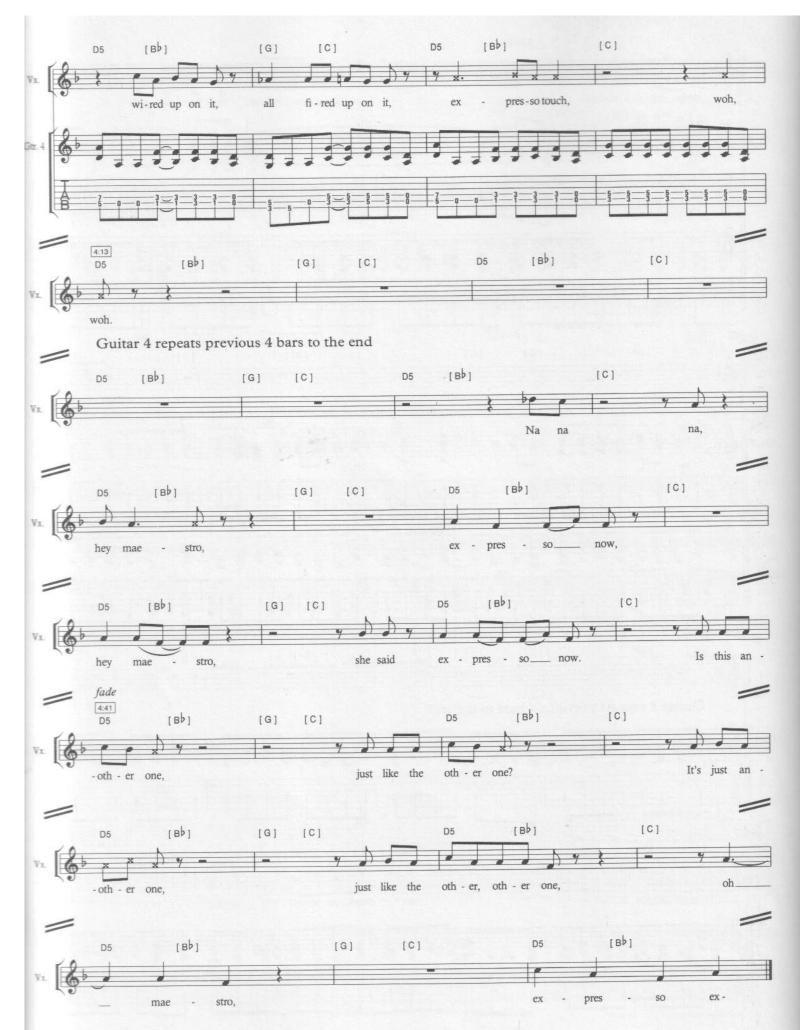








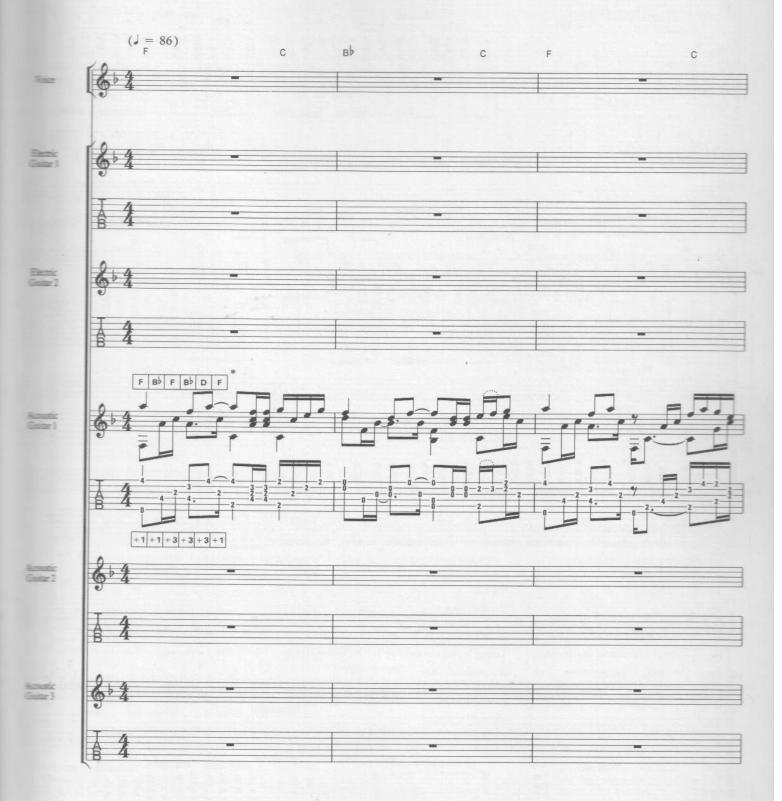






## romeo and juliet

Words & Music by Mark Knopfler



<sup>\*</sup>Alternatively, use G tuning and capo 3

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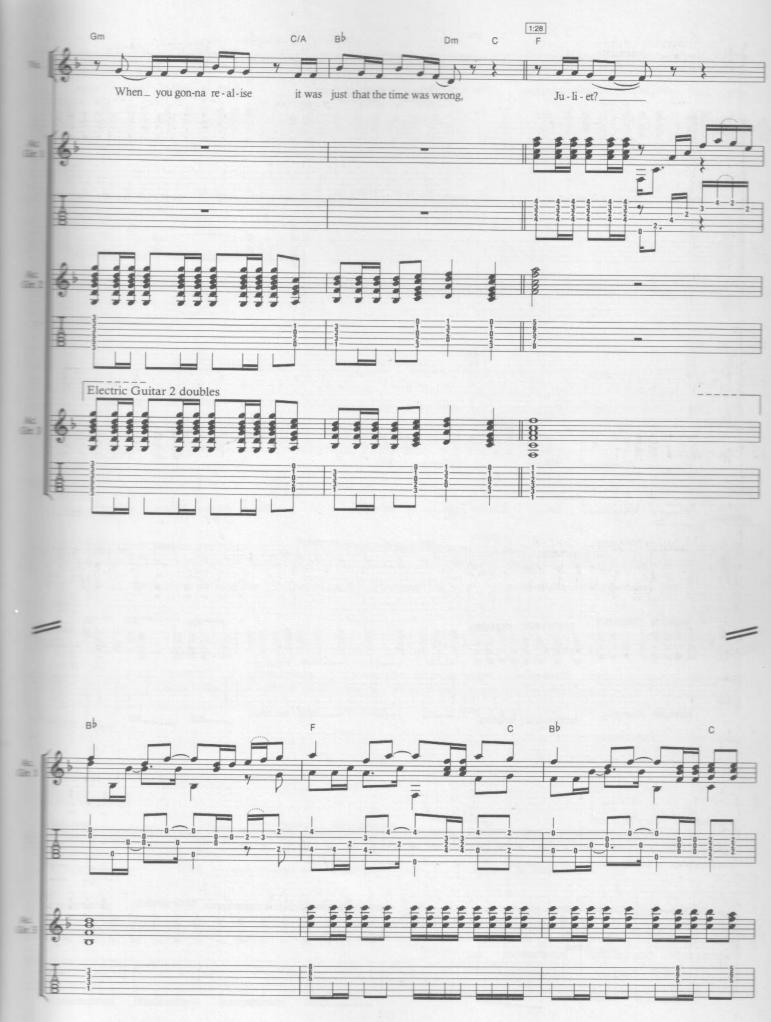
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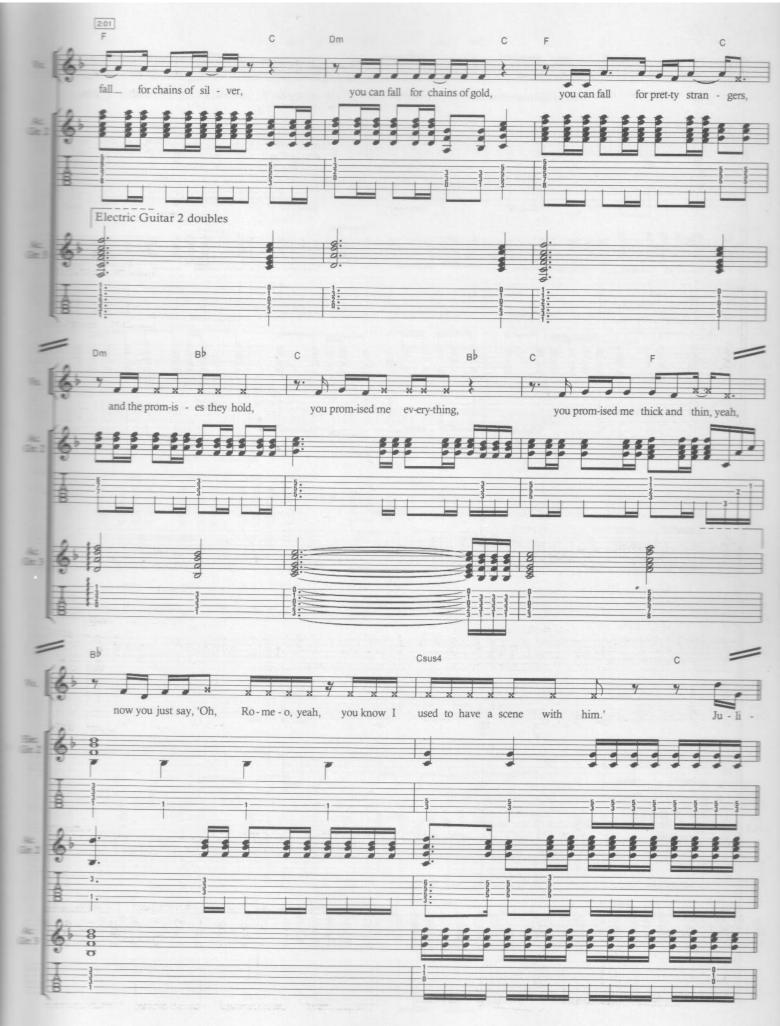


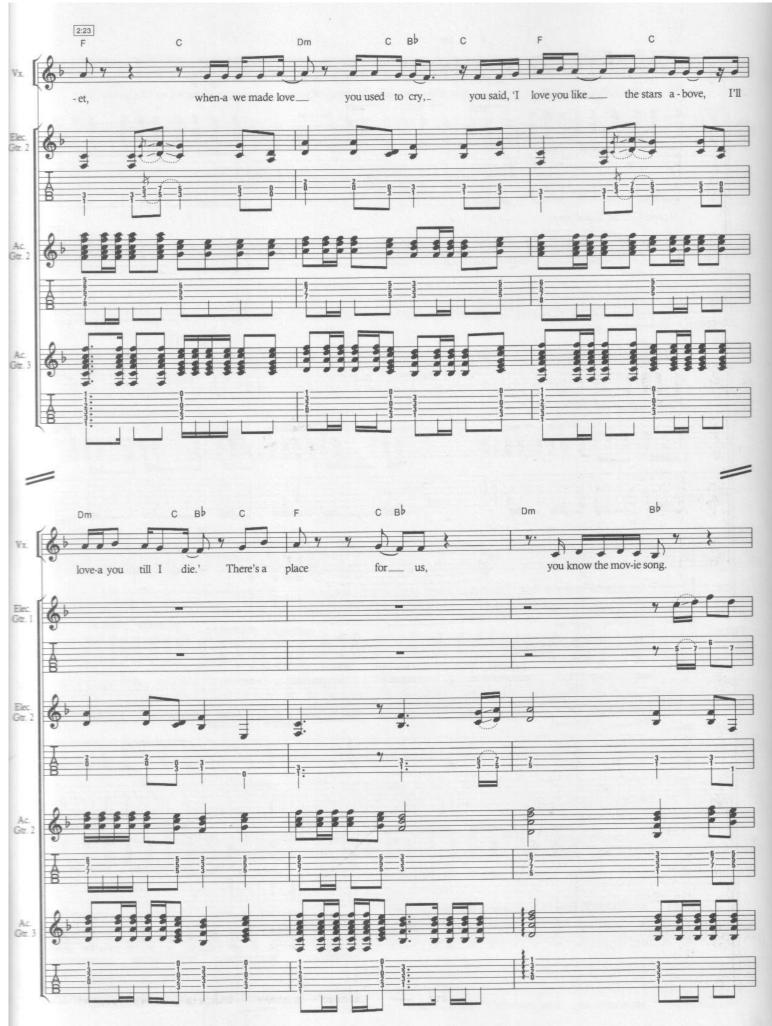


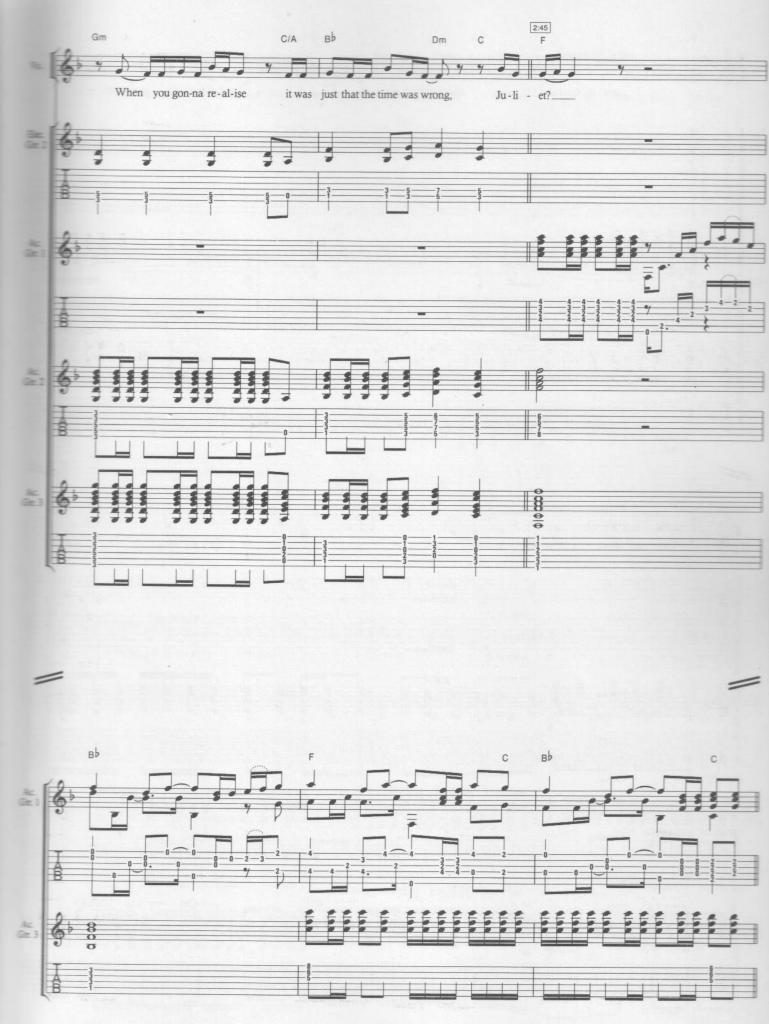




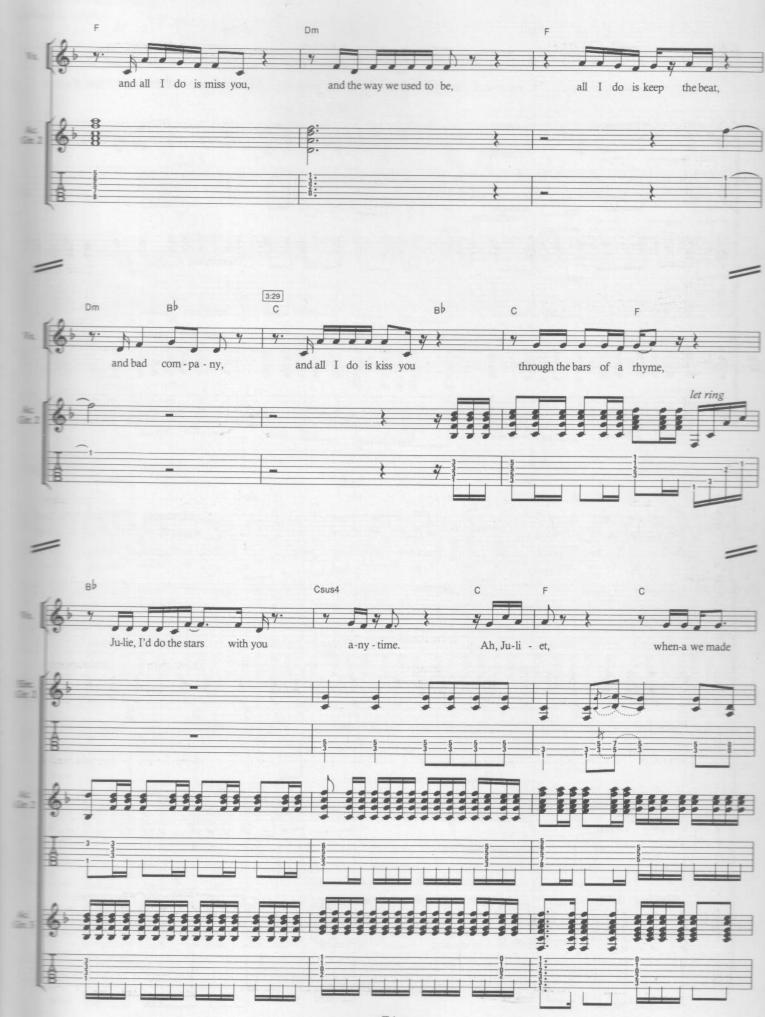


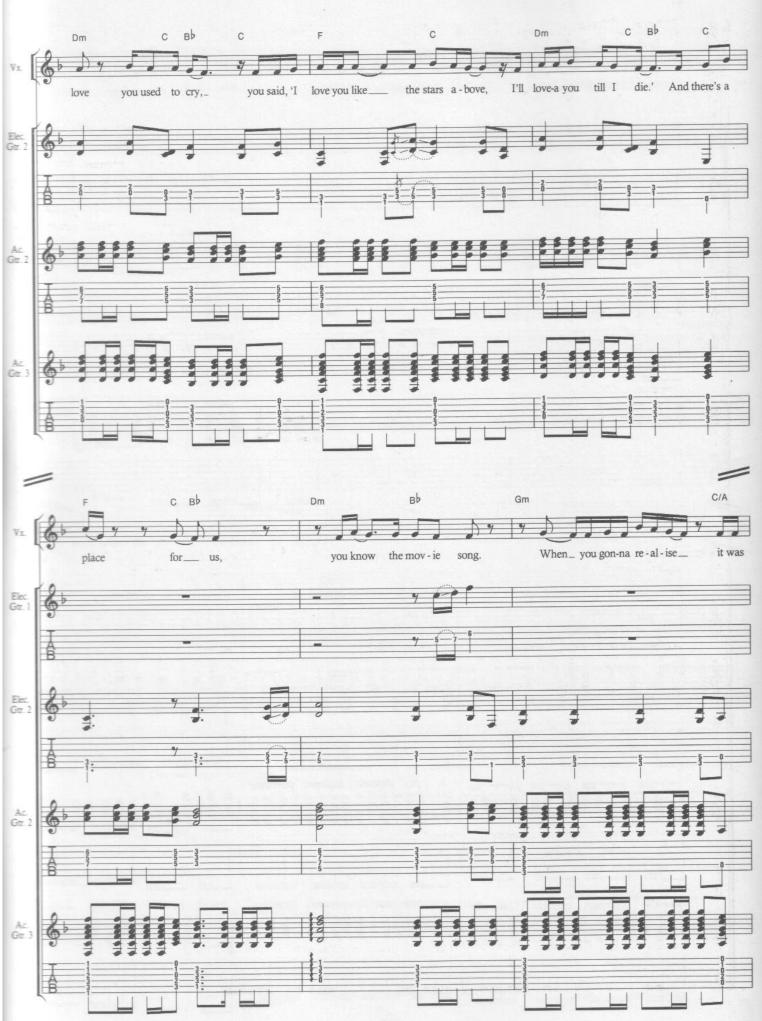


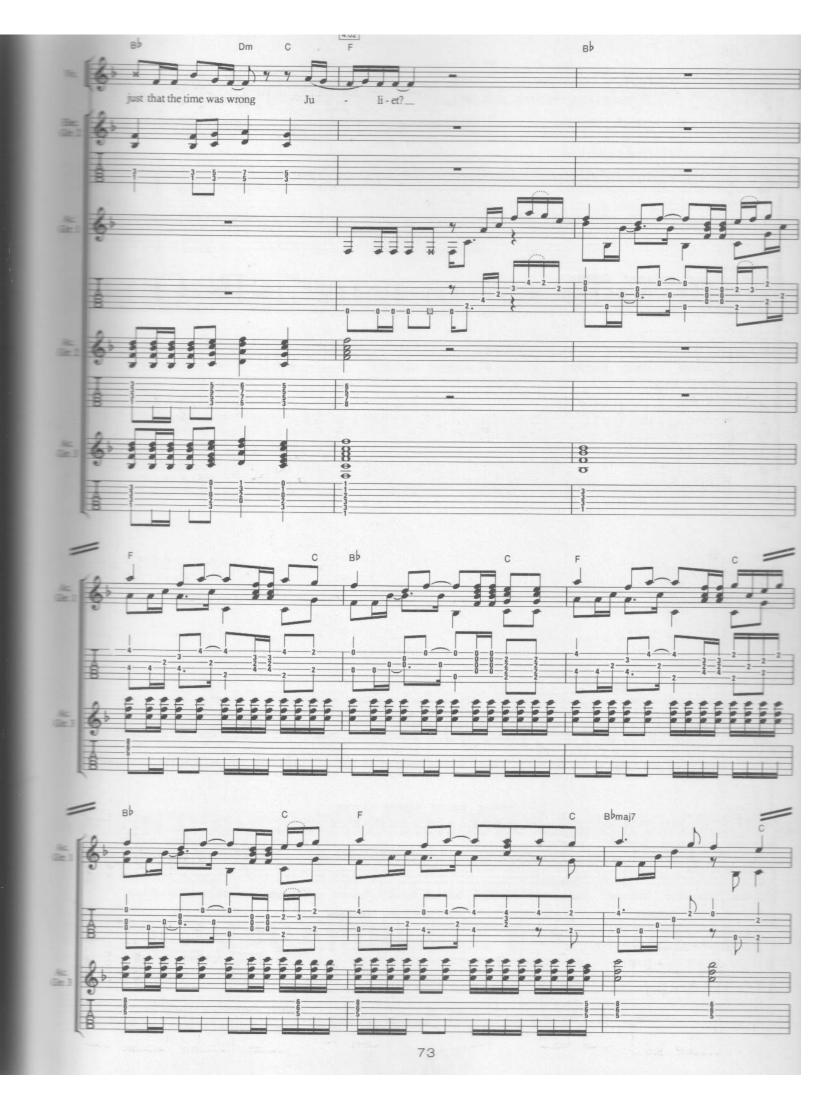


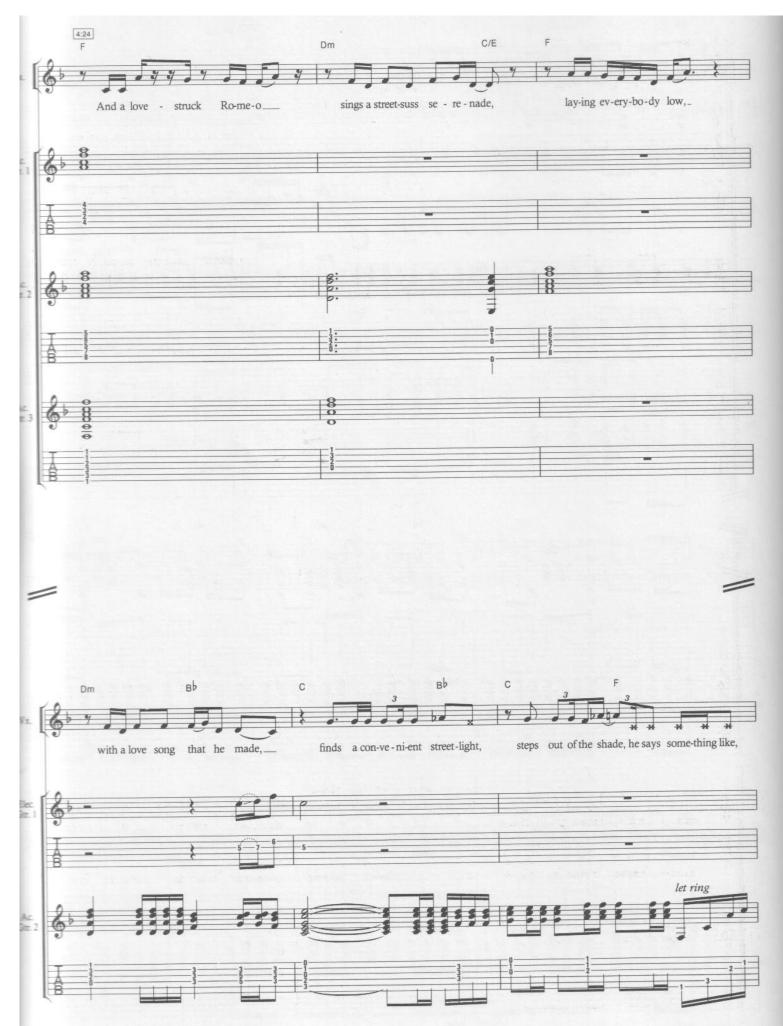




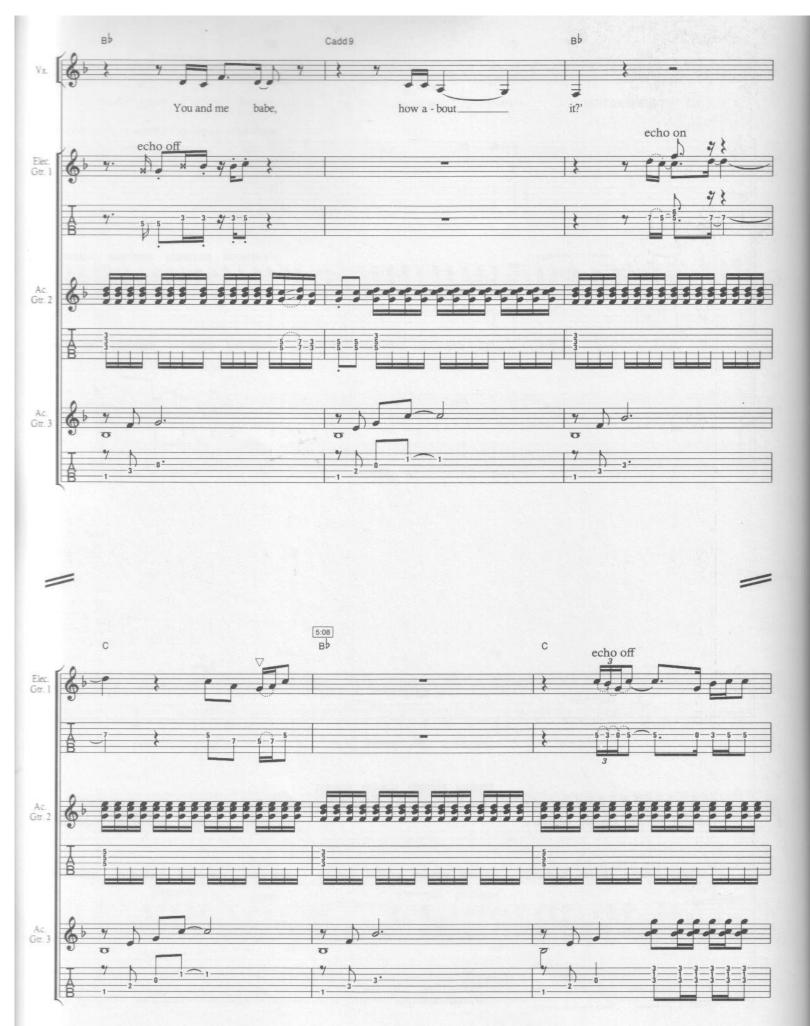


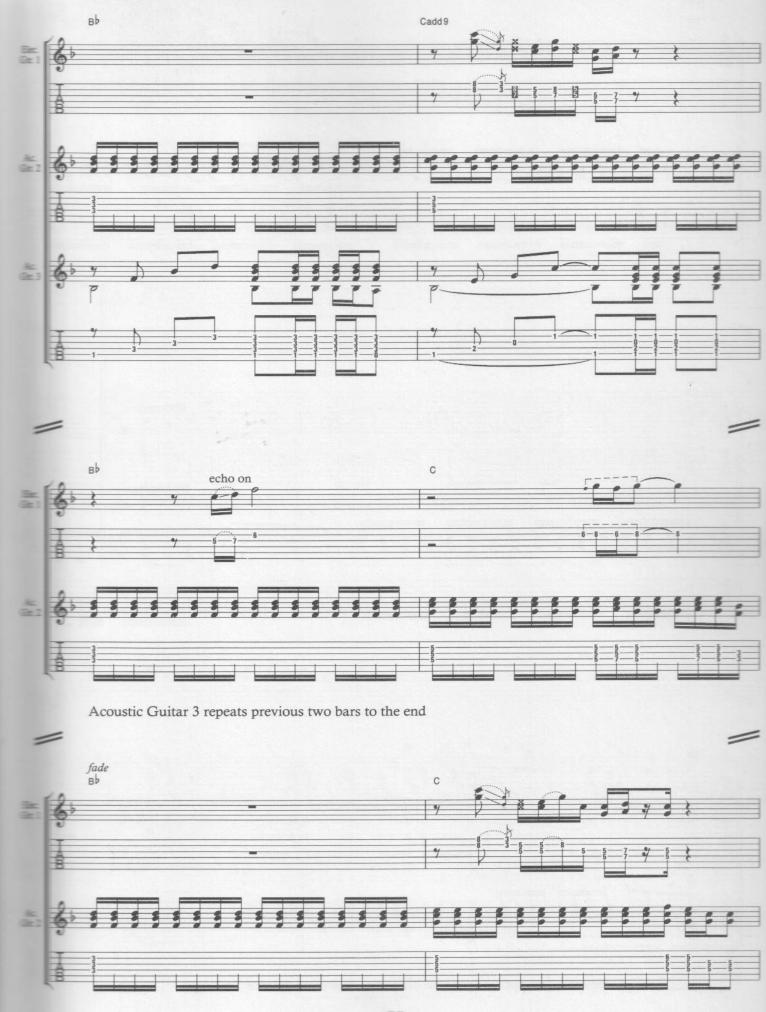










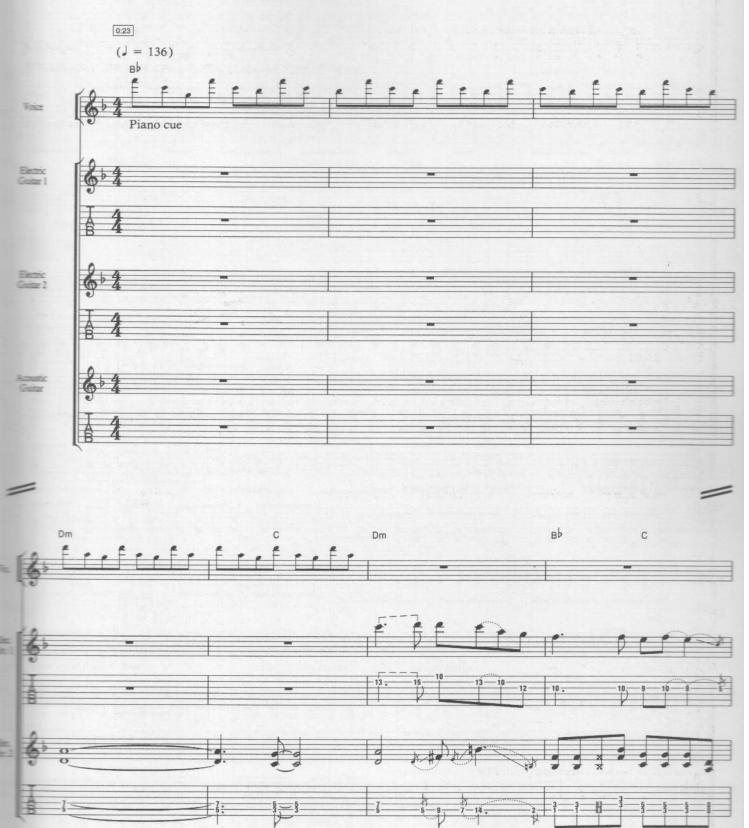






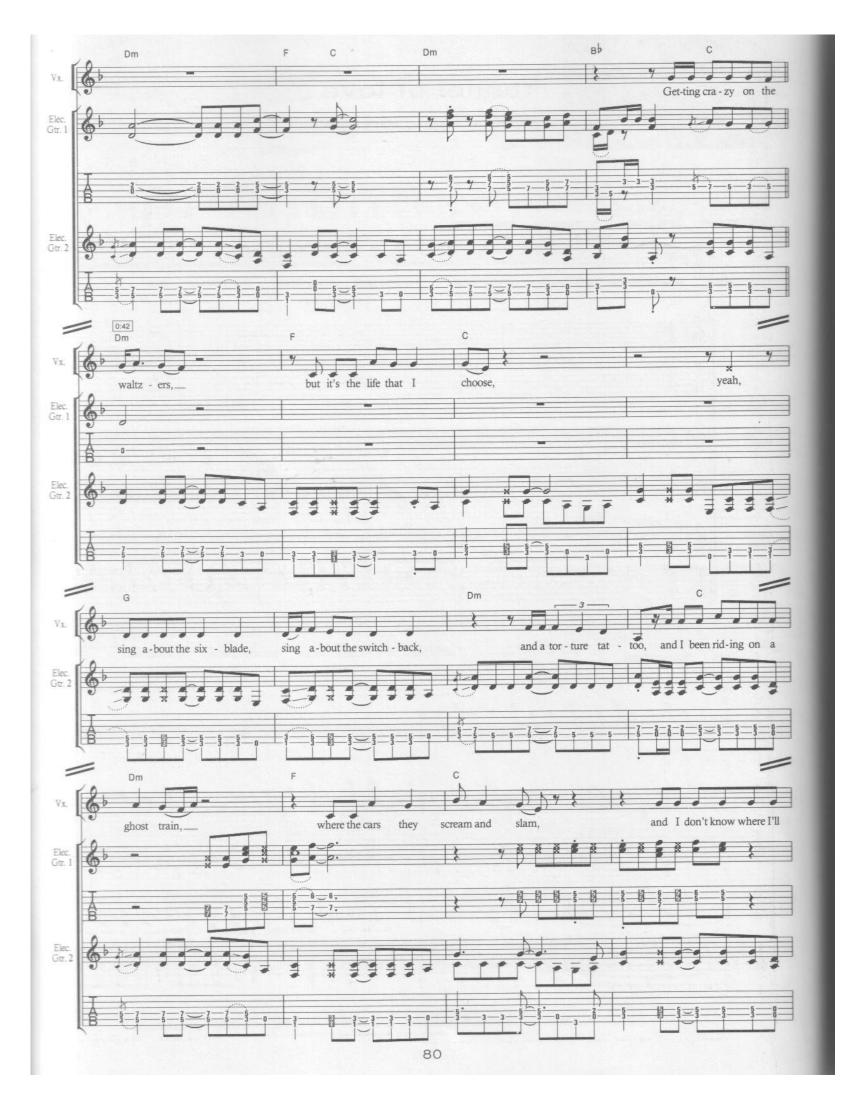
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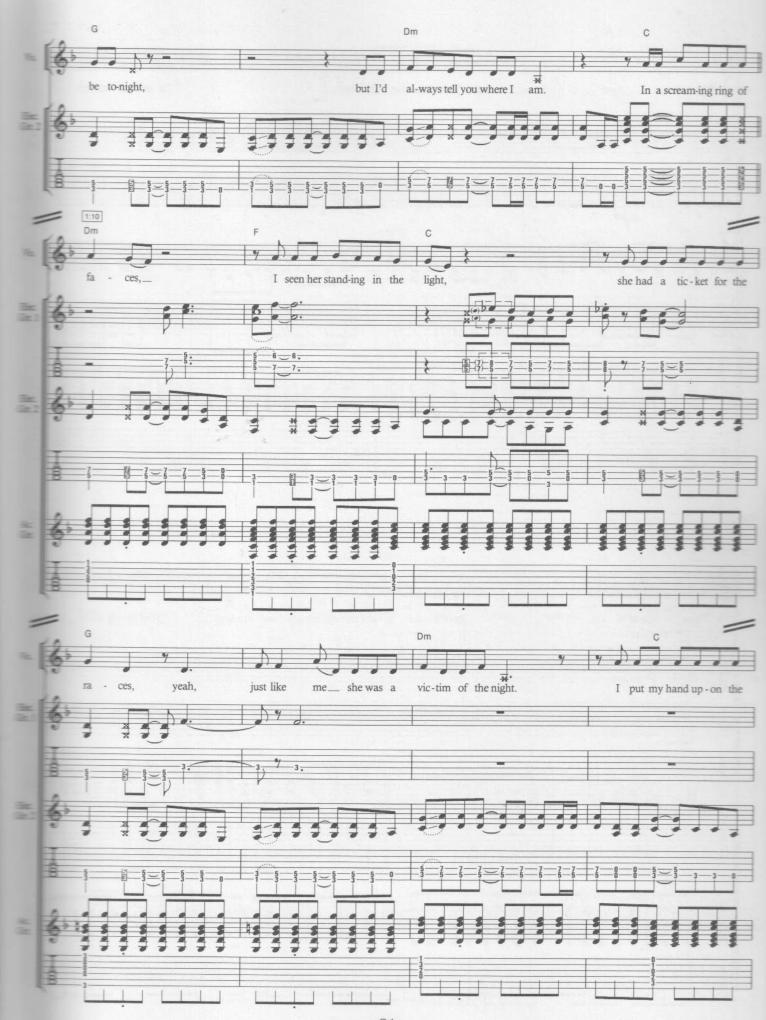
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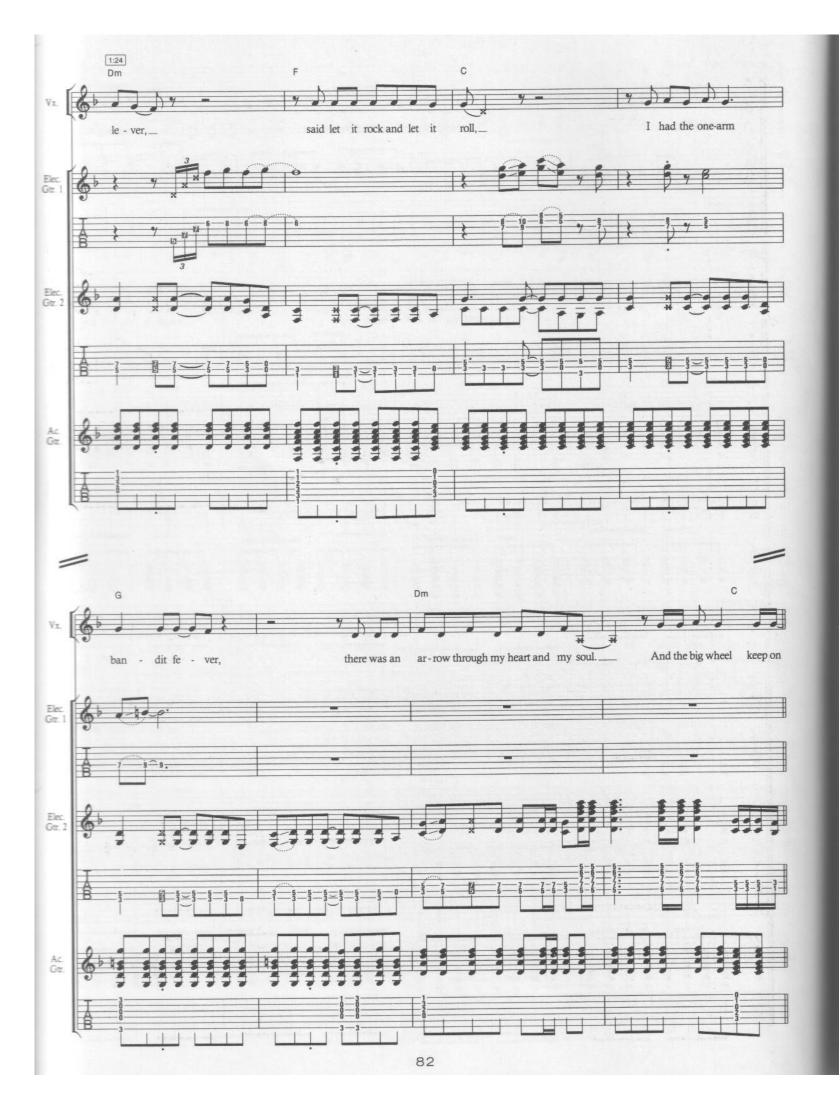


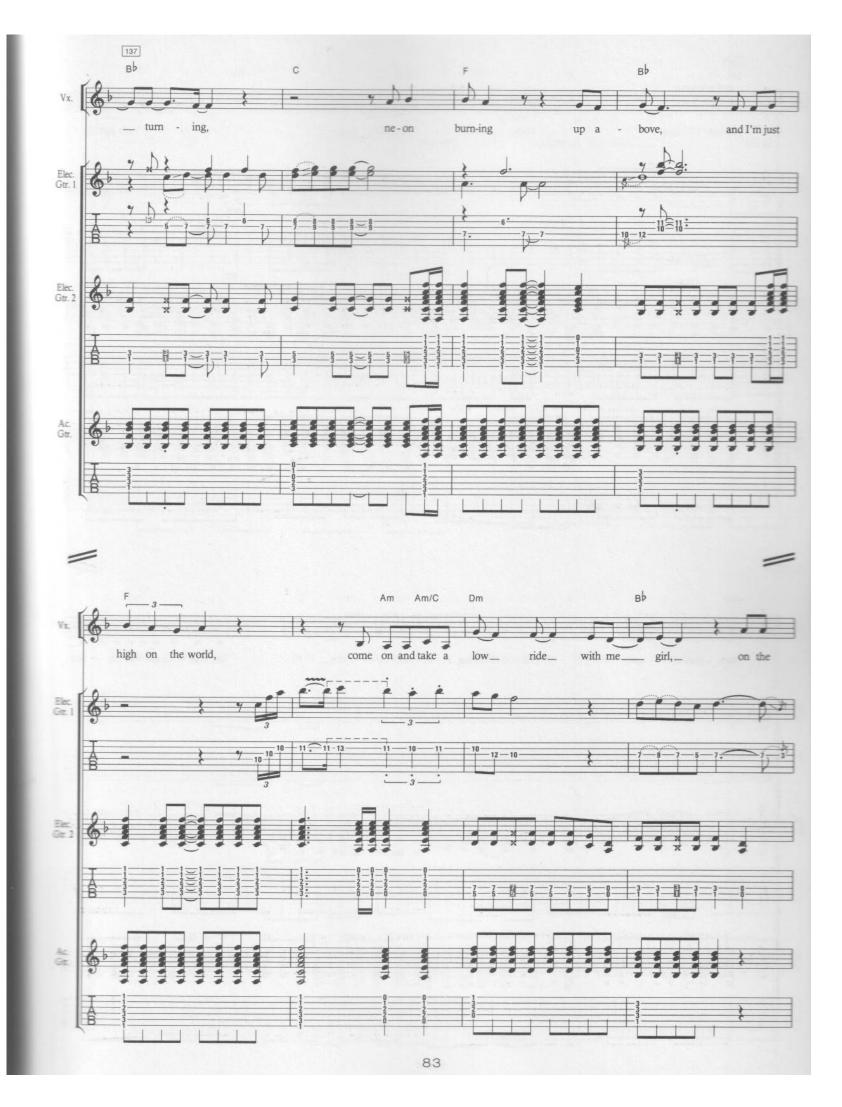
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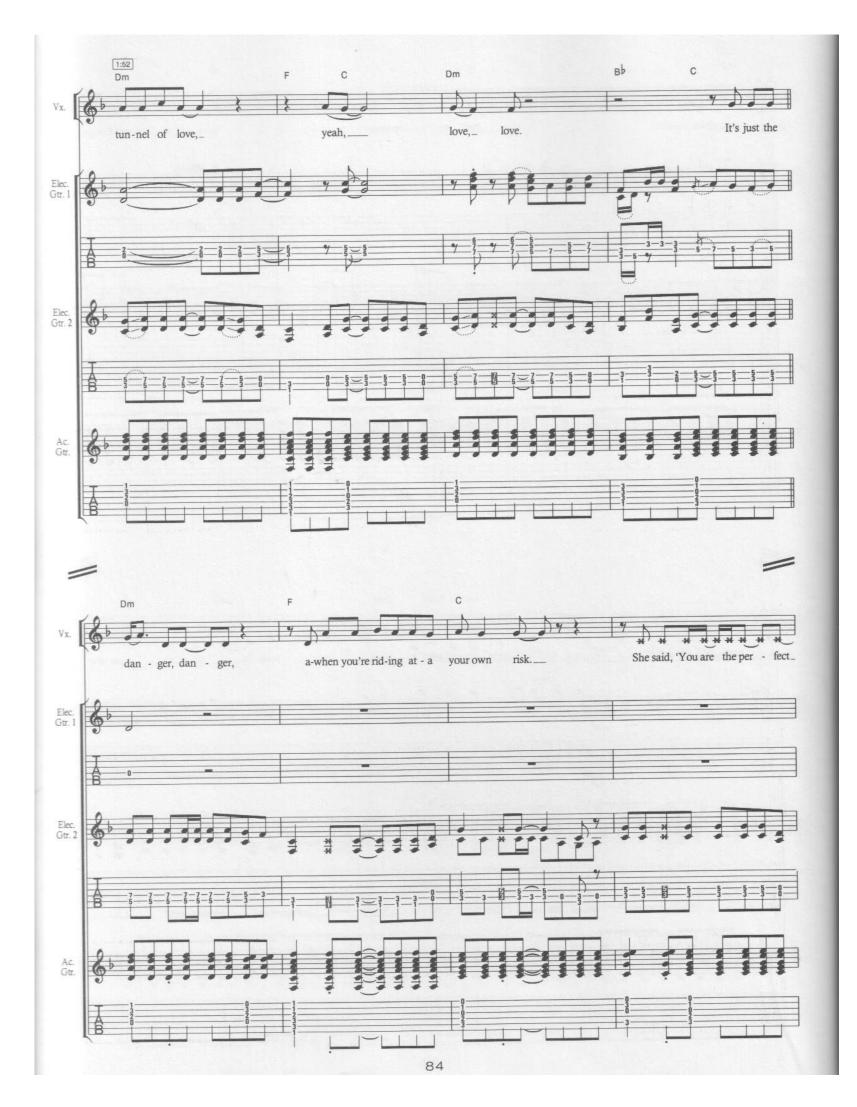
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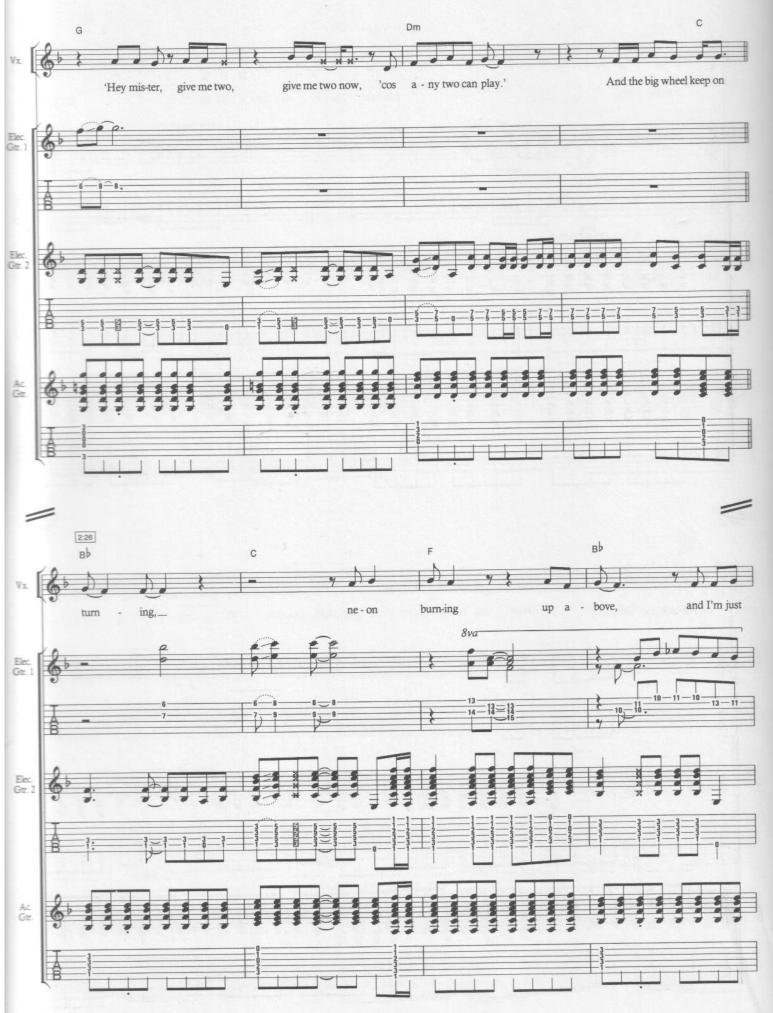


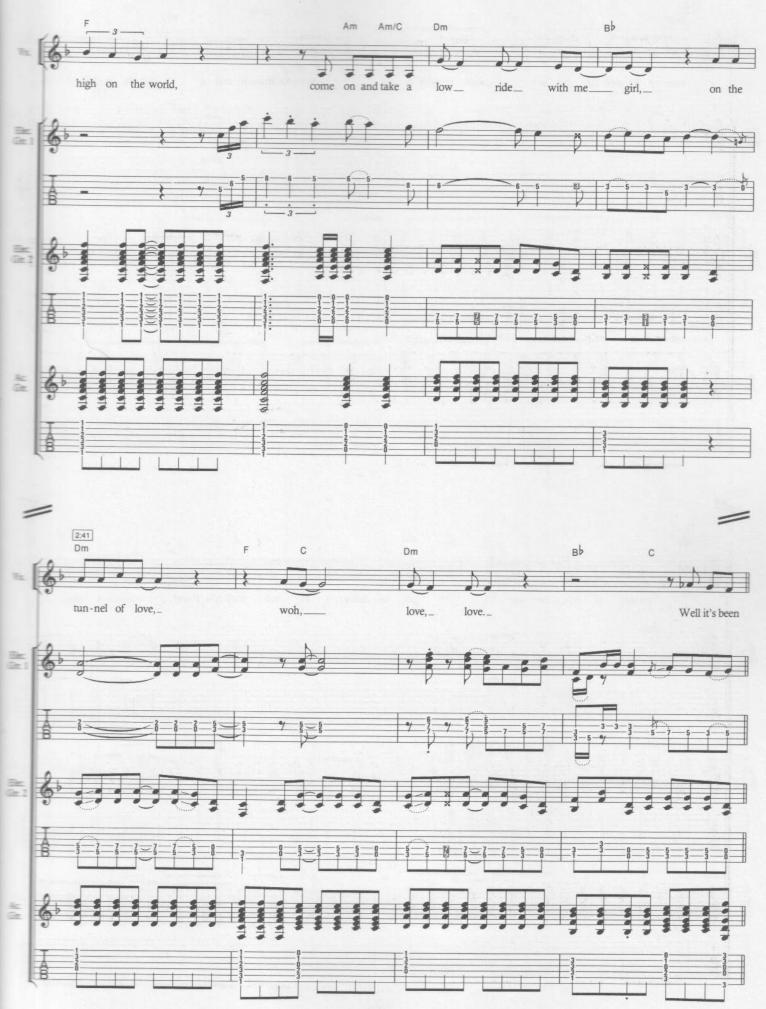


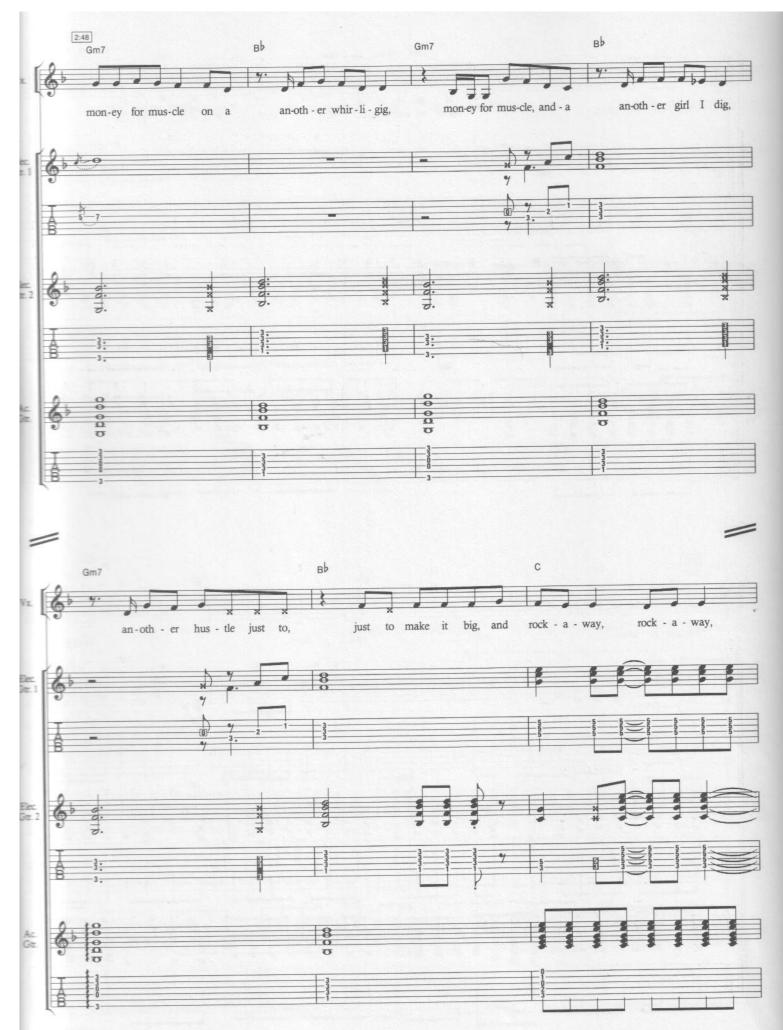


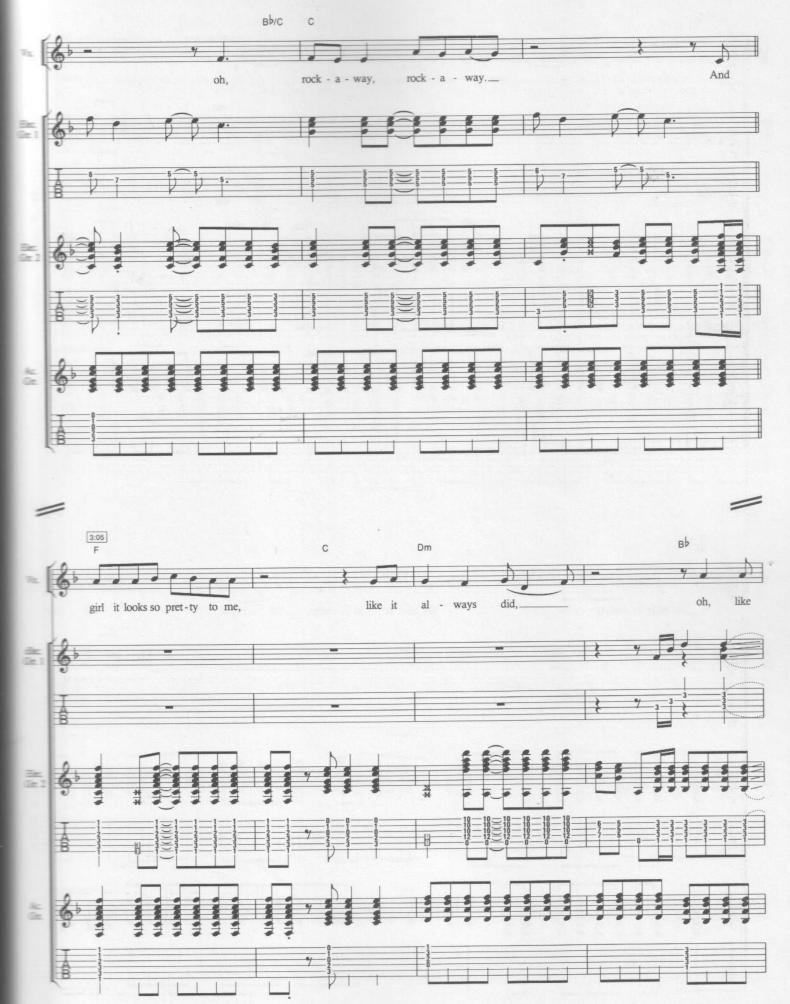


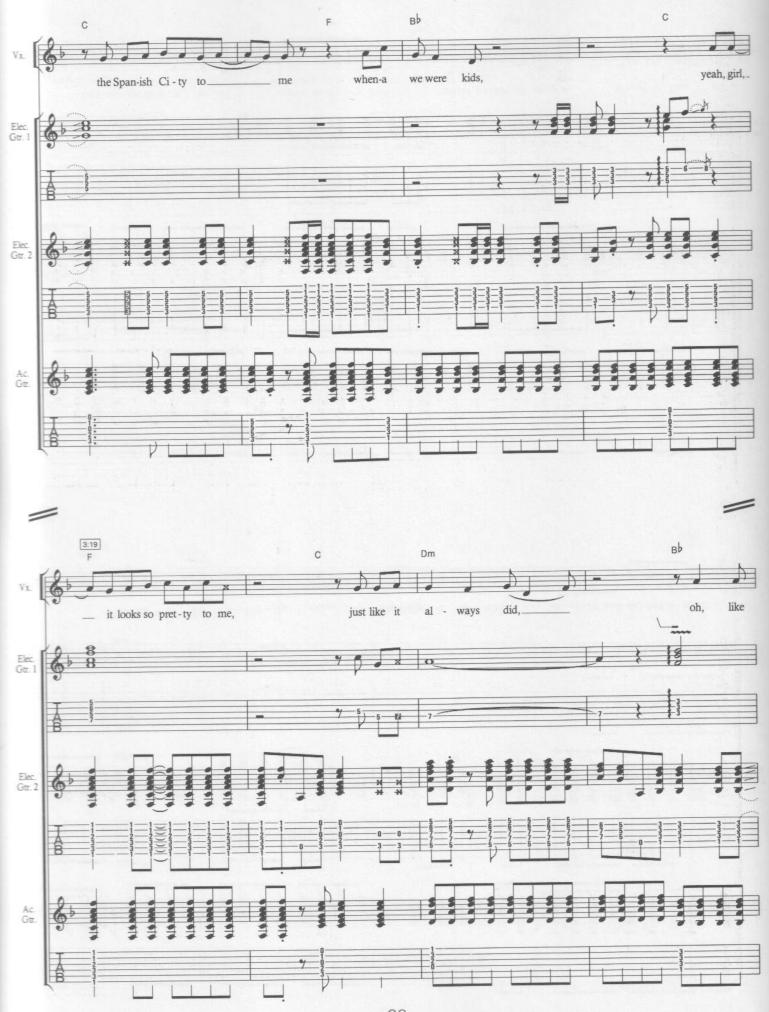


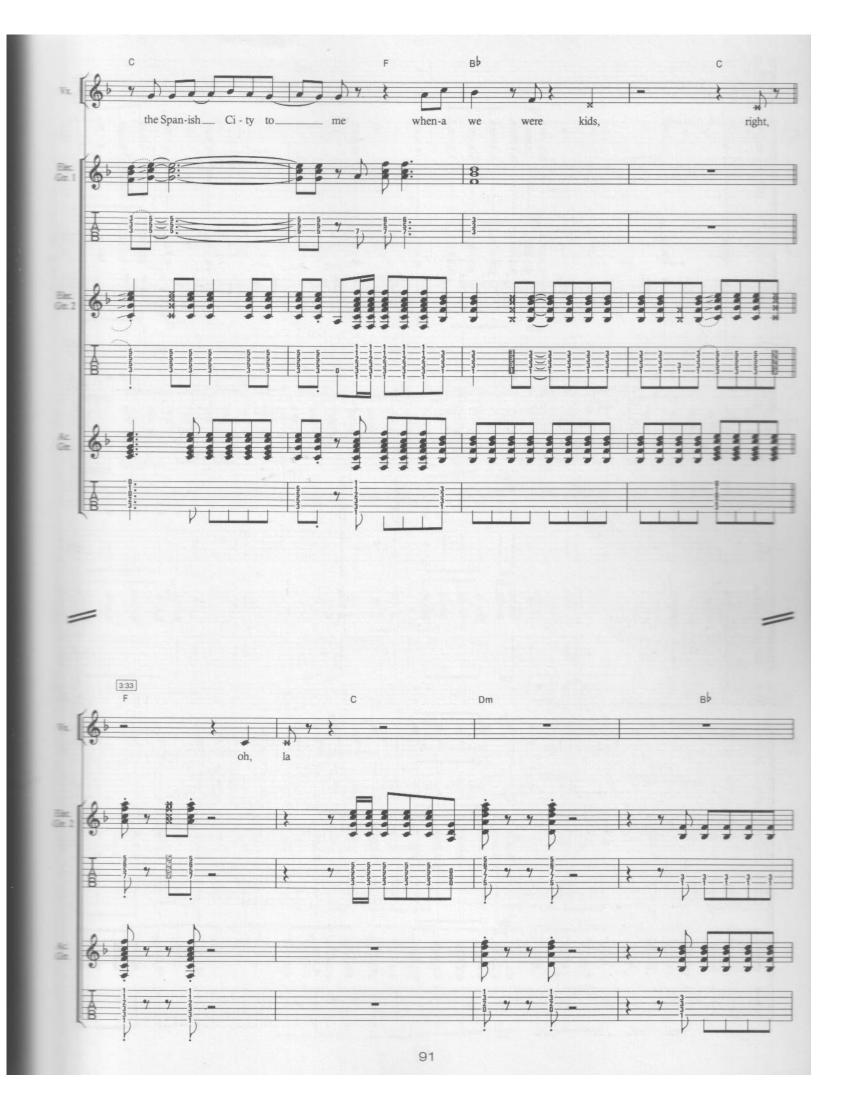


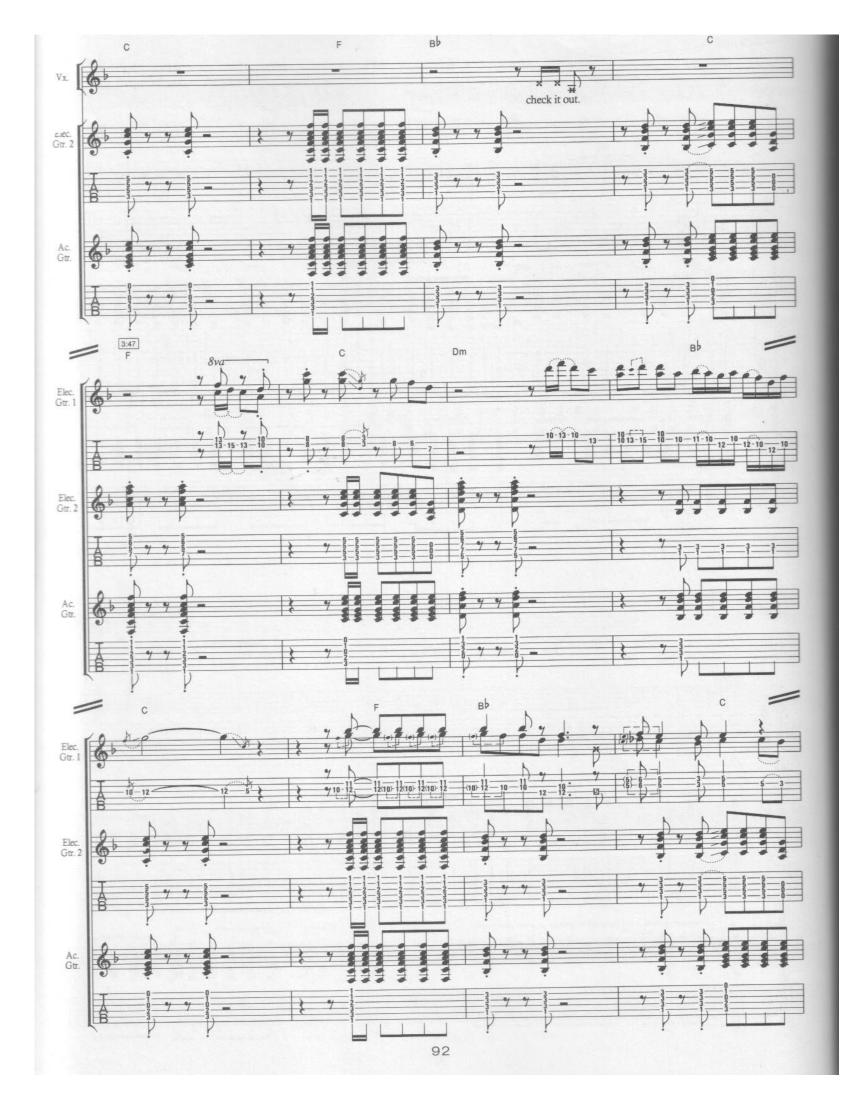


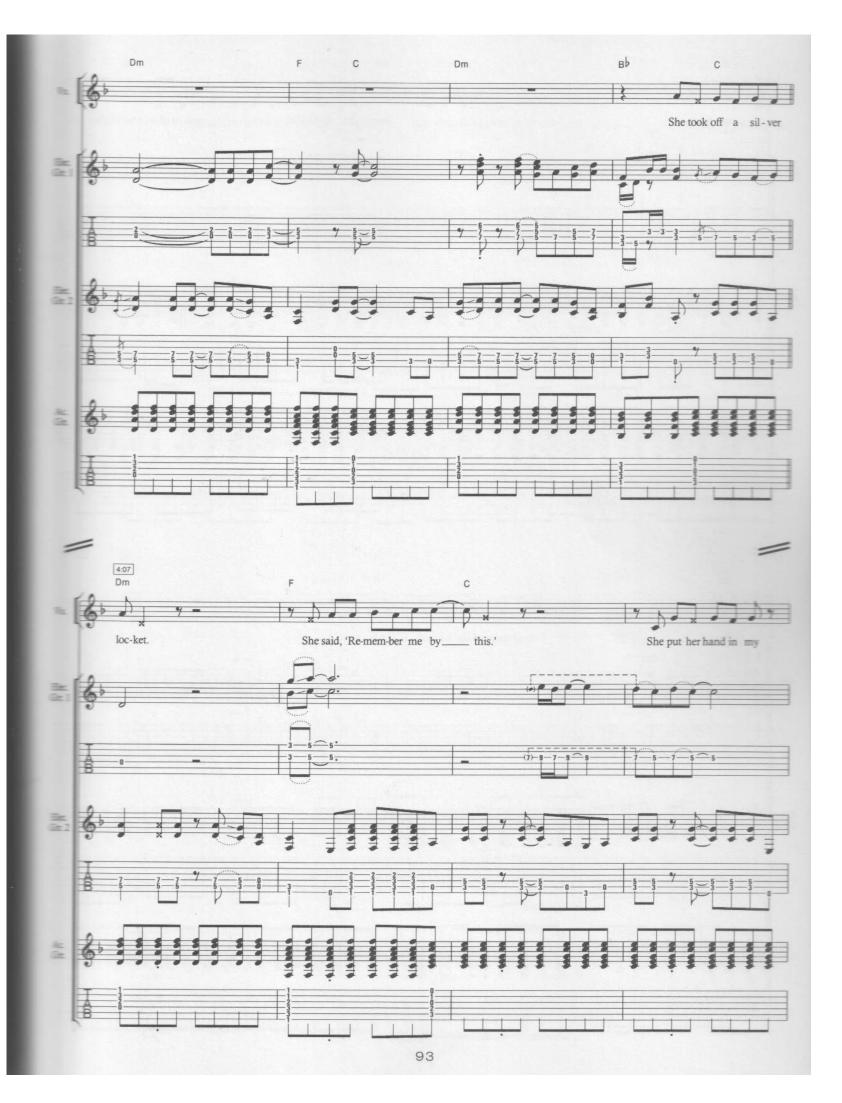




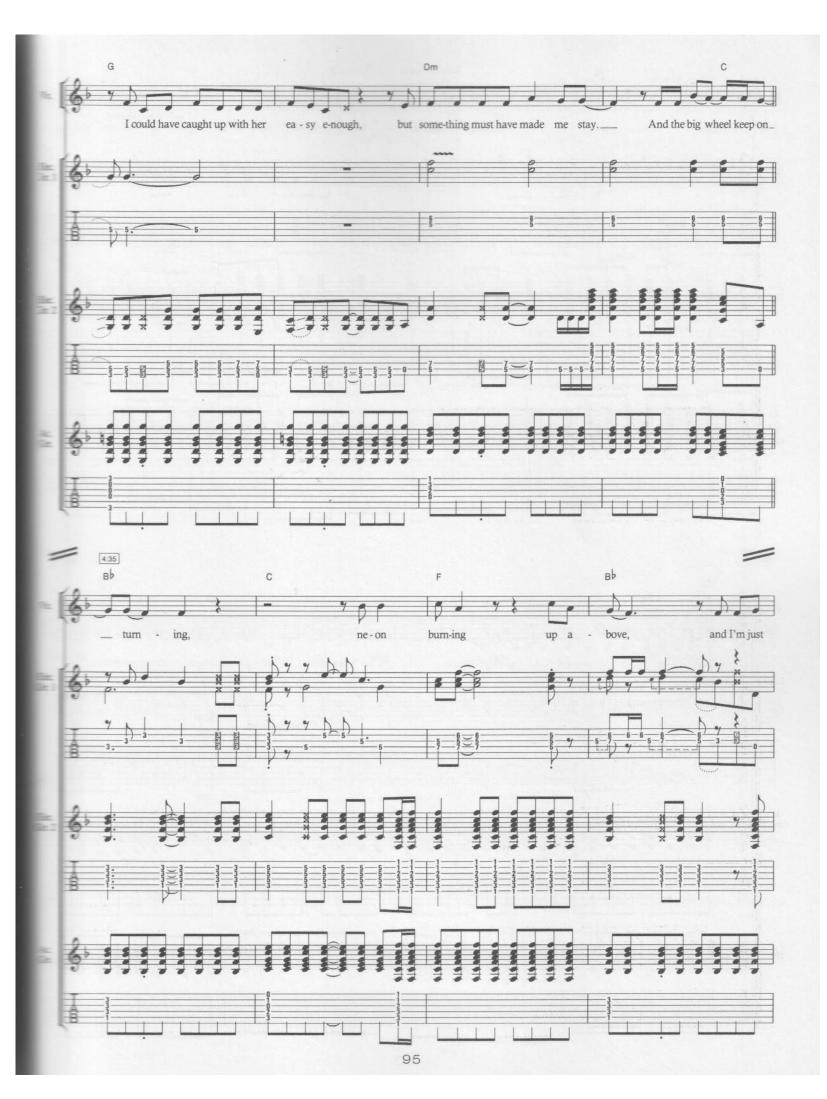


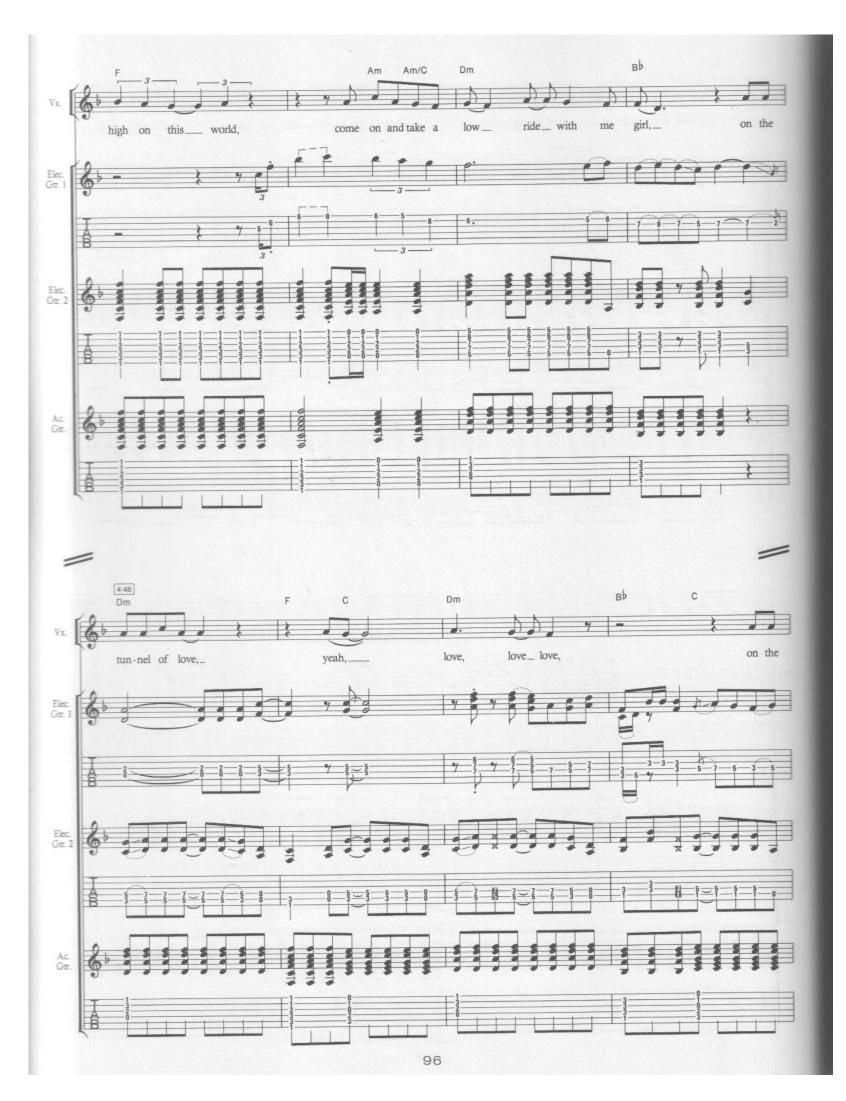


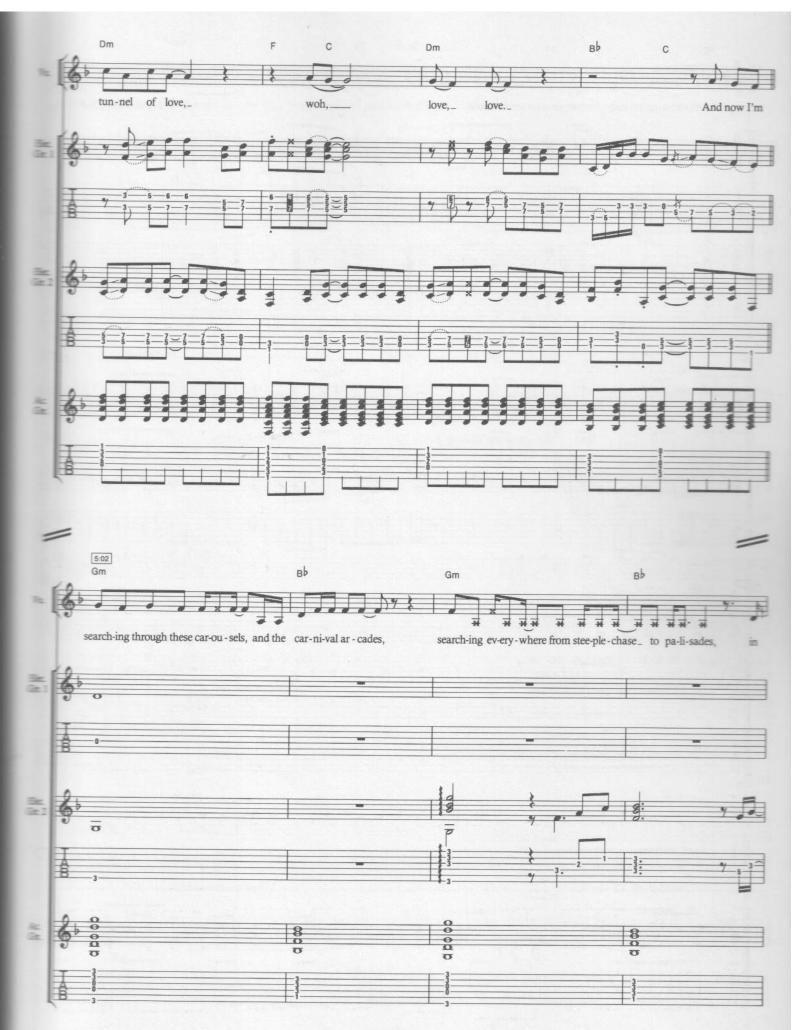


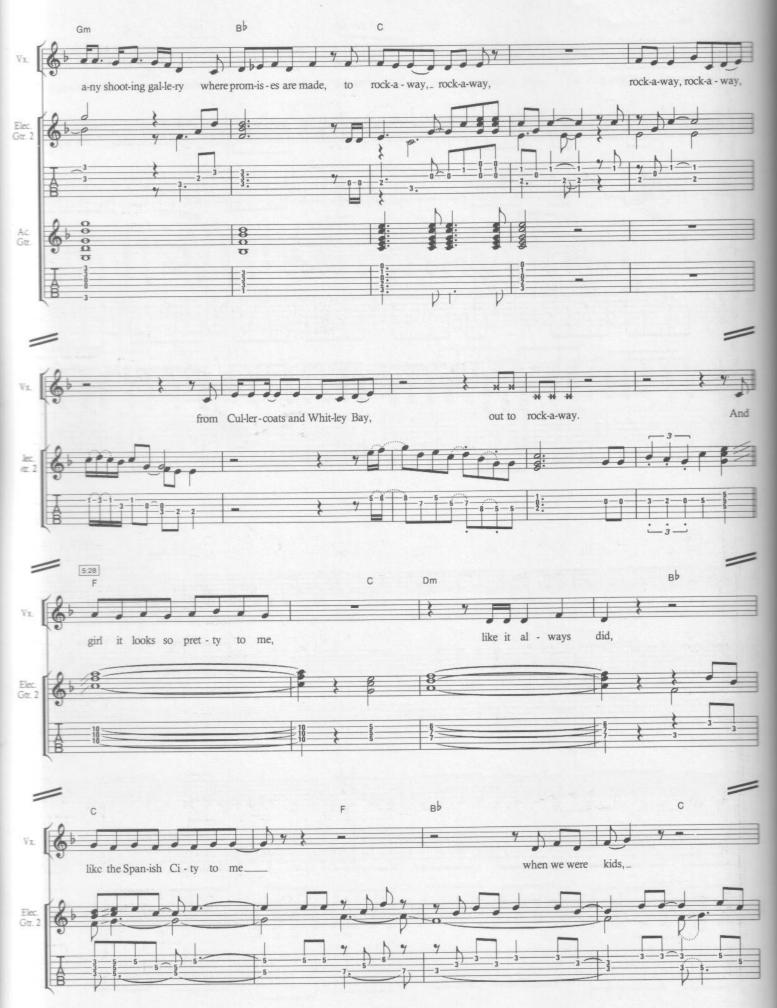








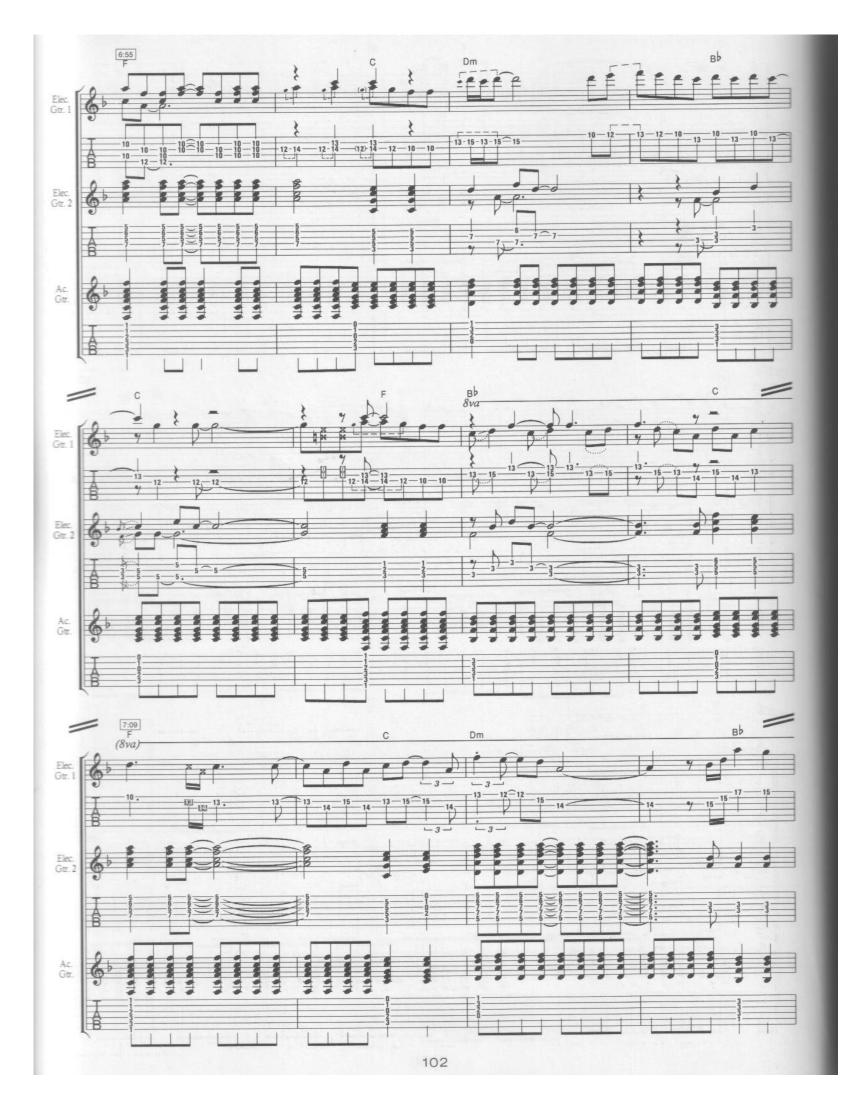


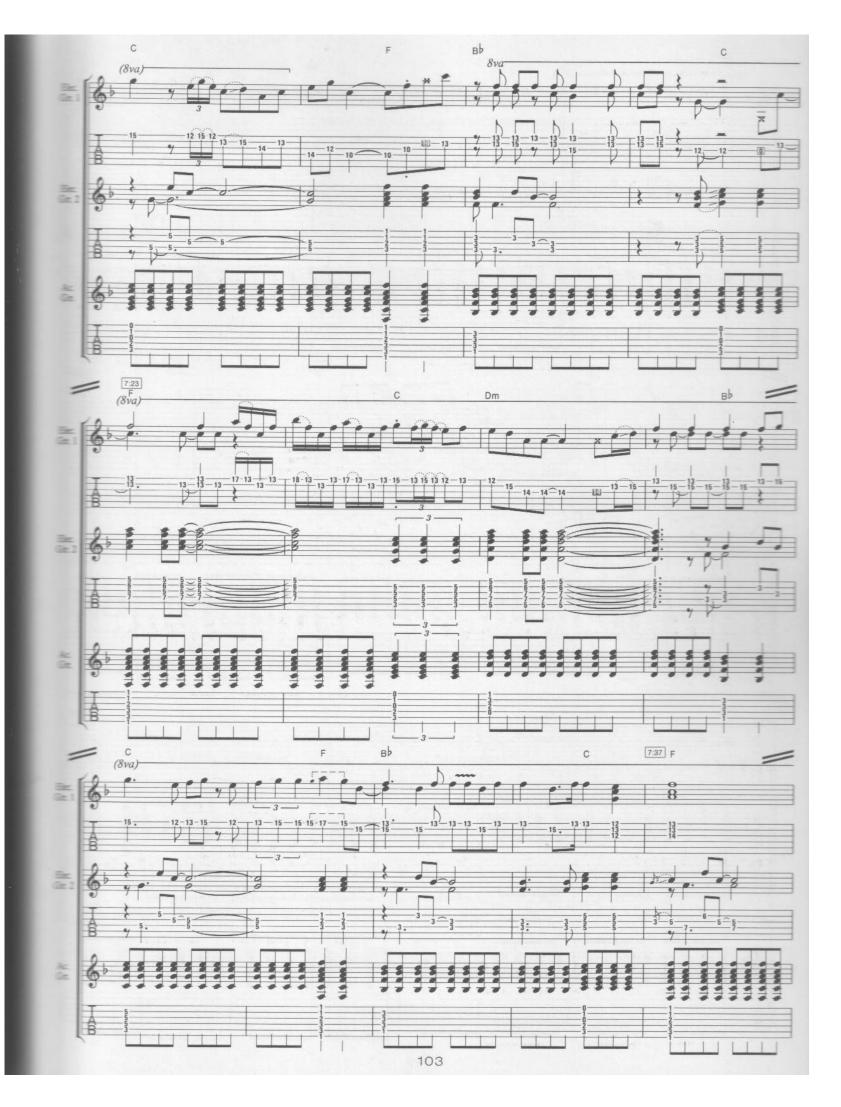
















## love over gold

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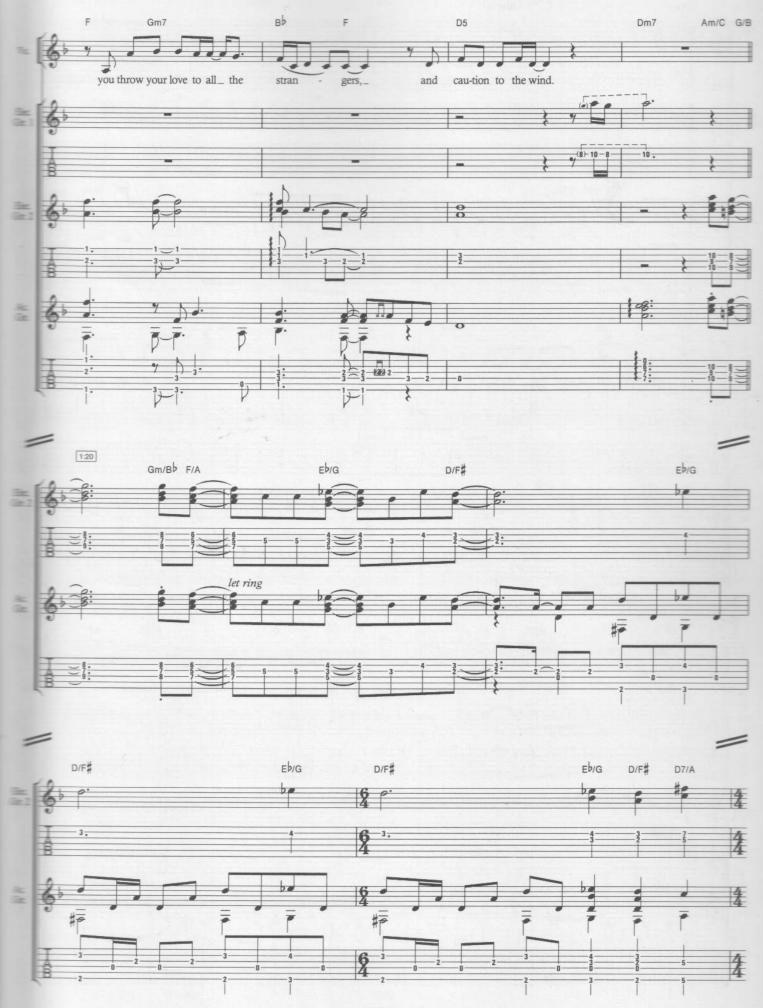


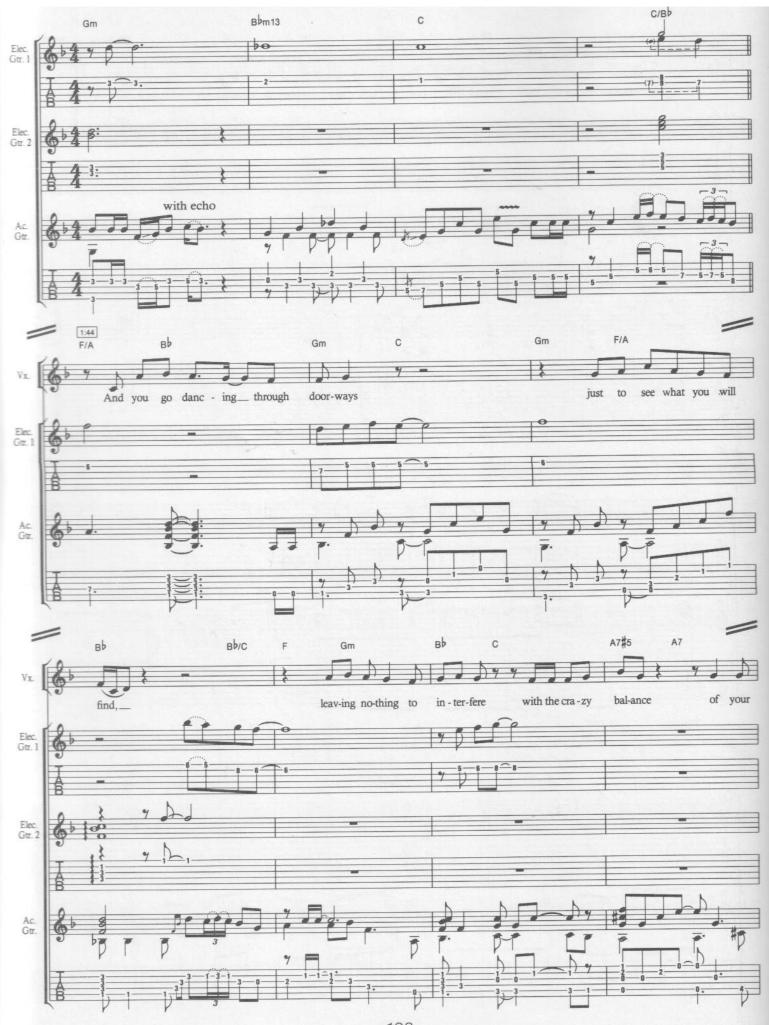
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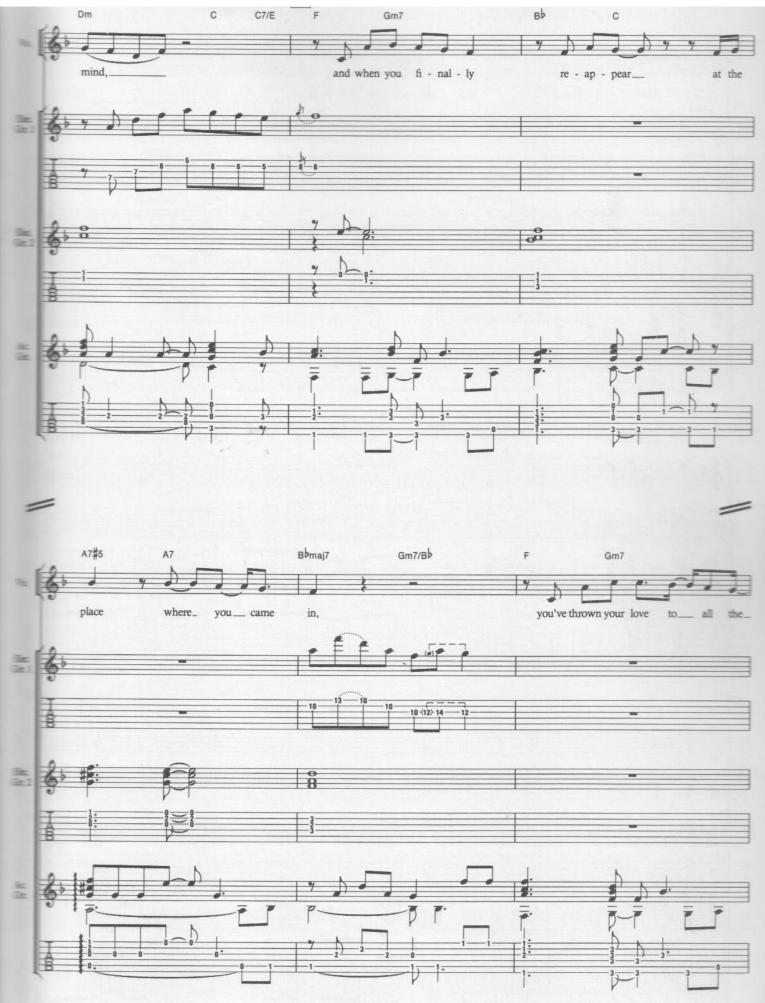
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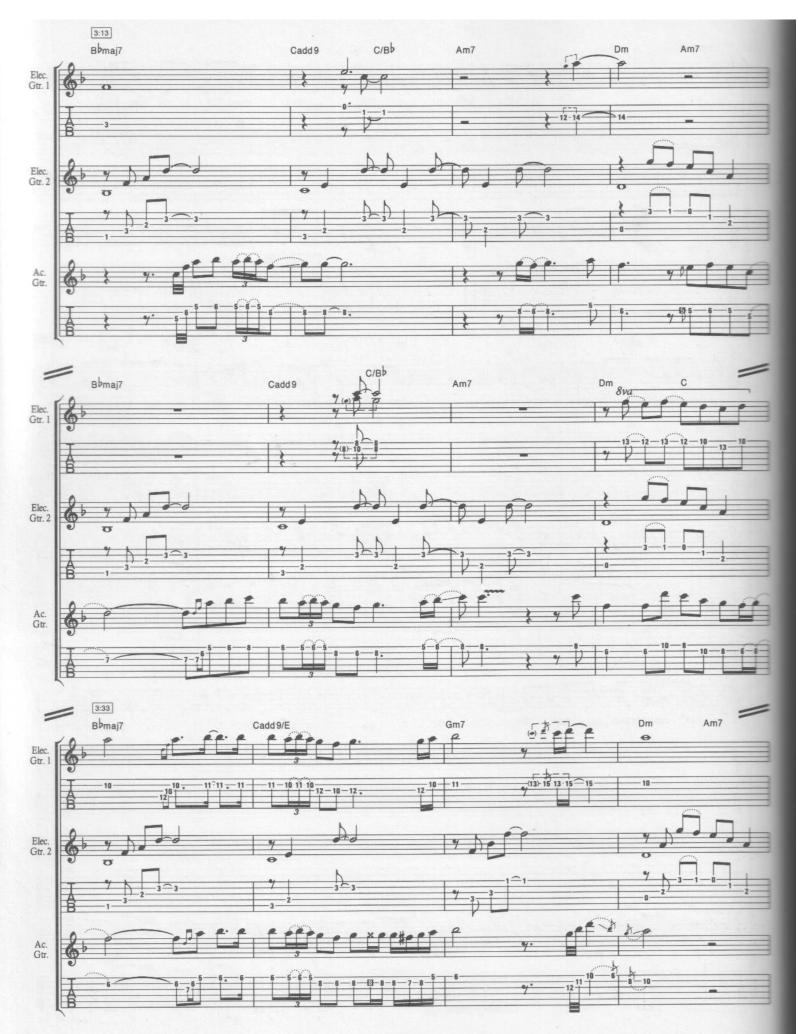


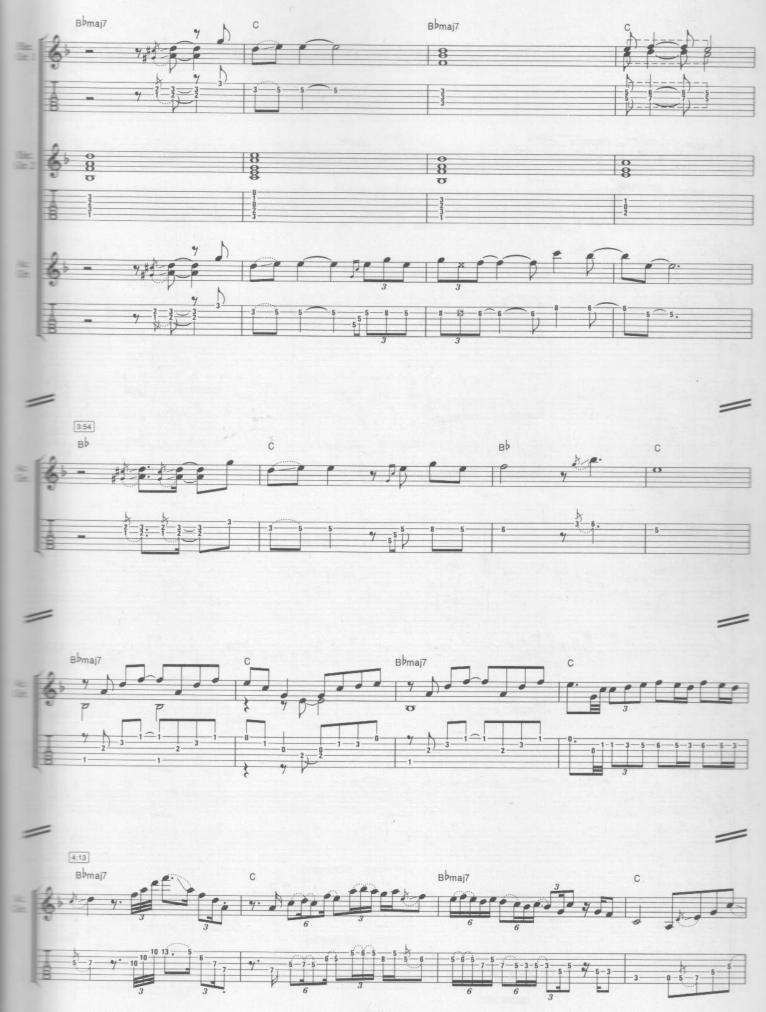




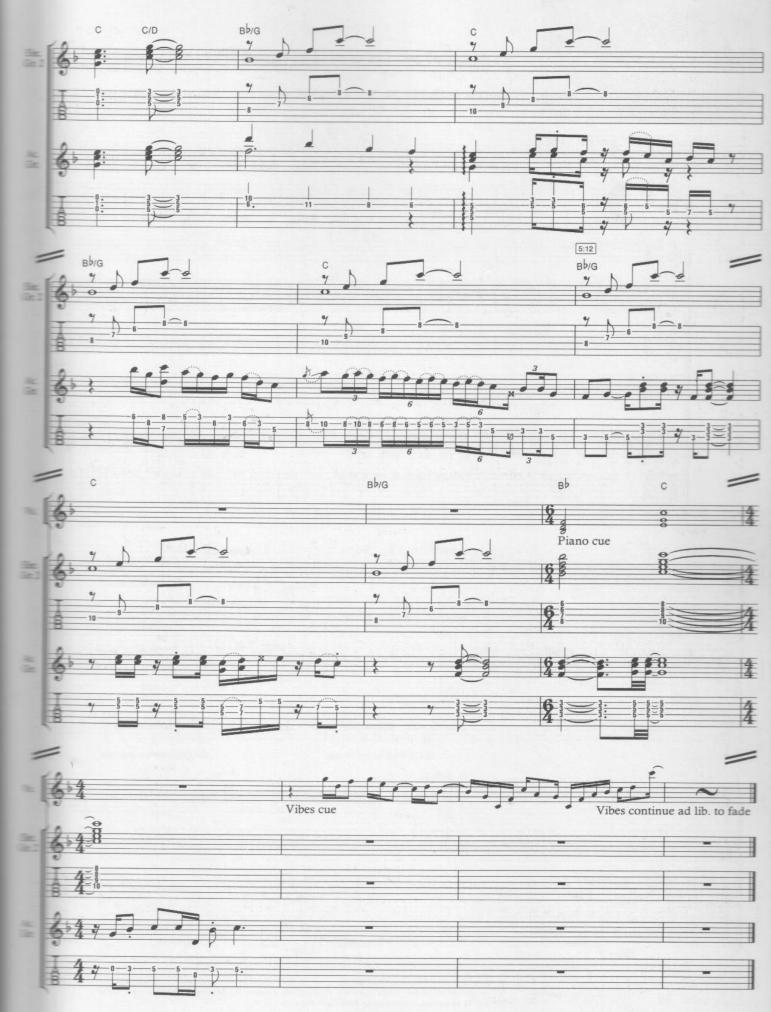








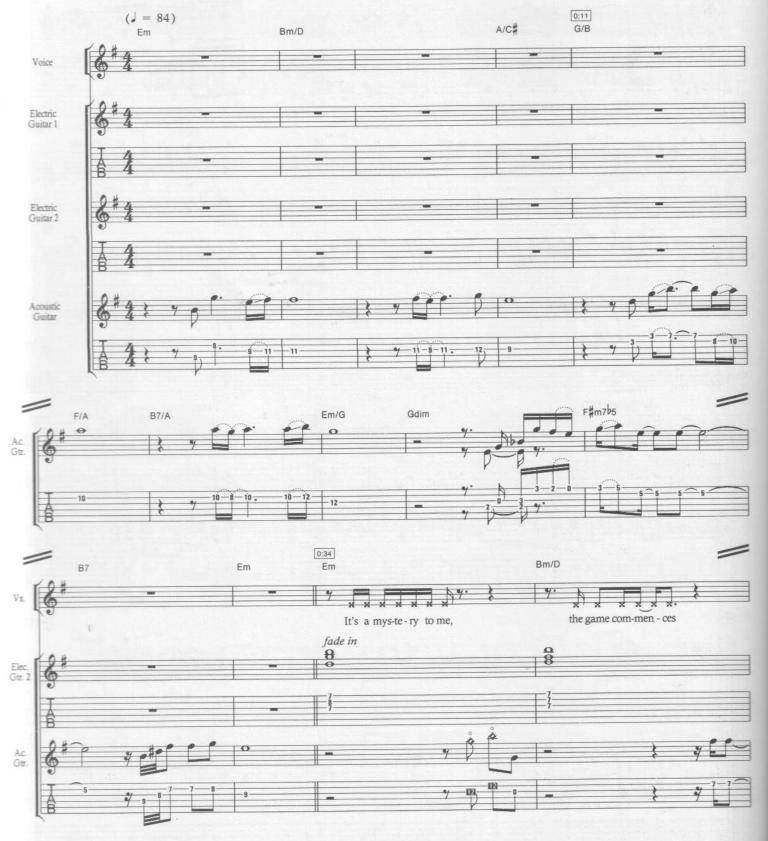






# private investigations

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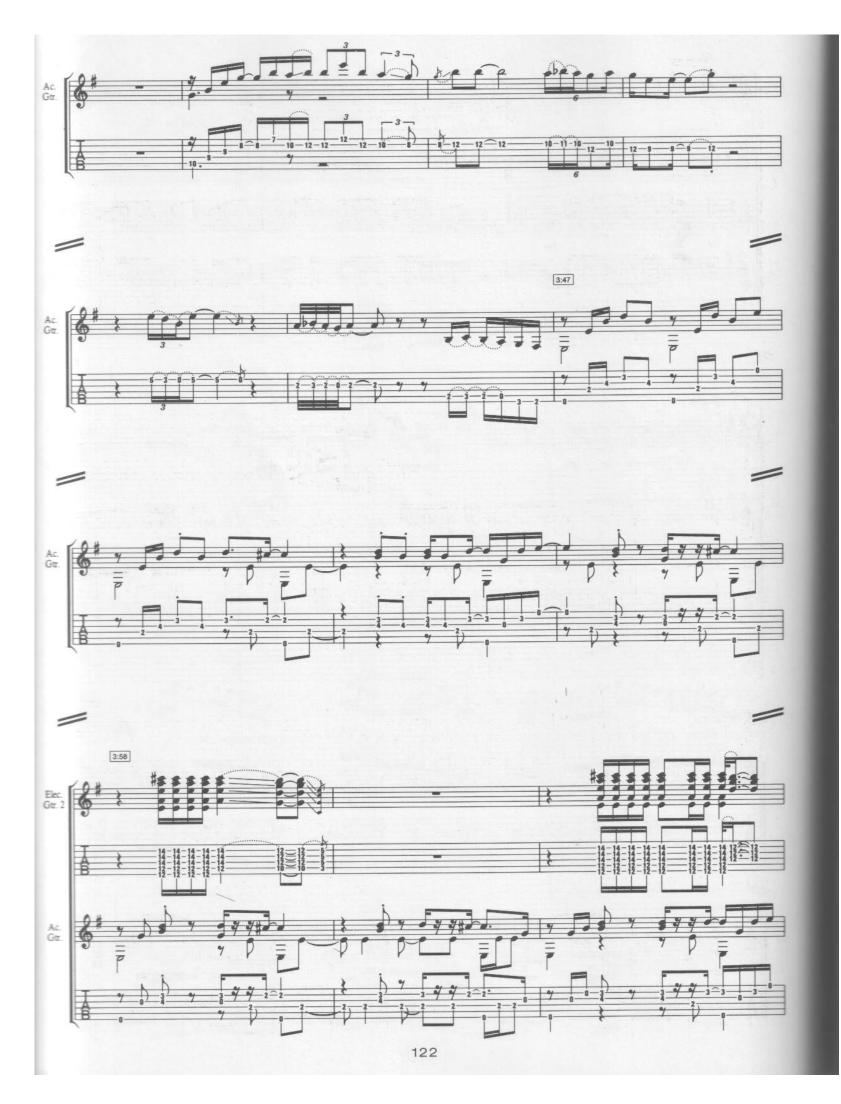




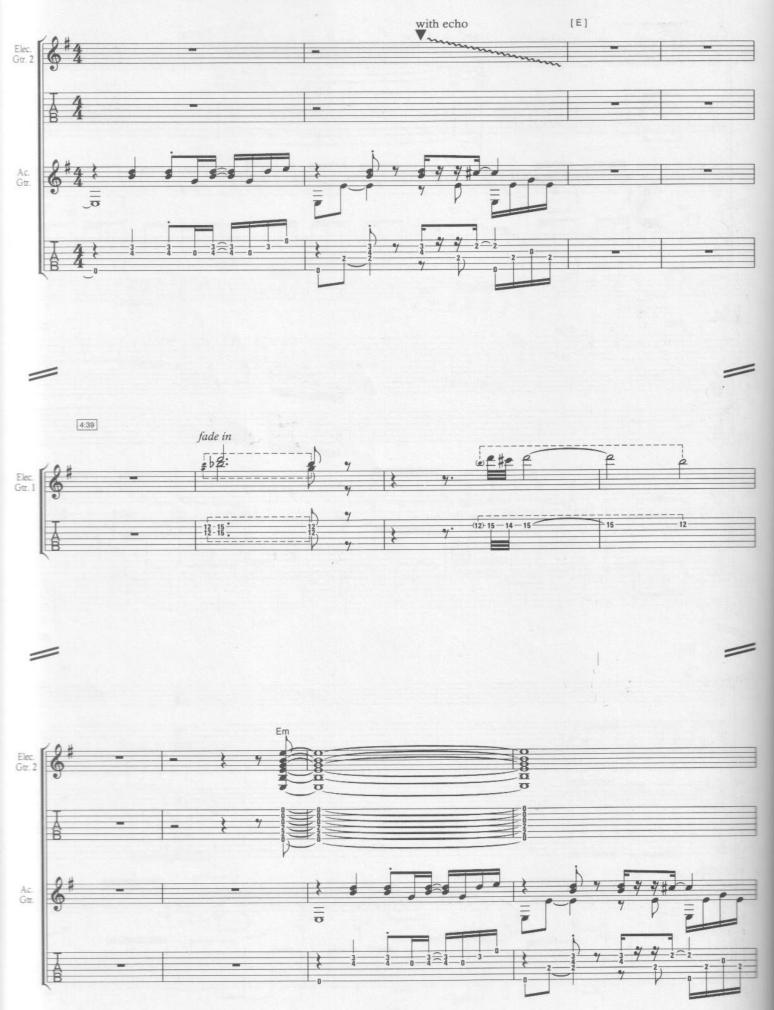










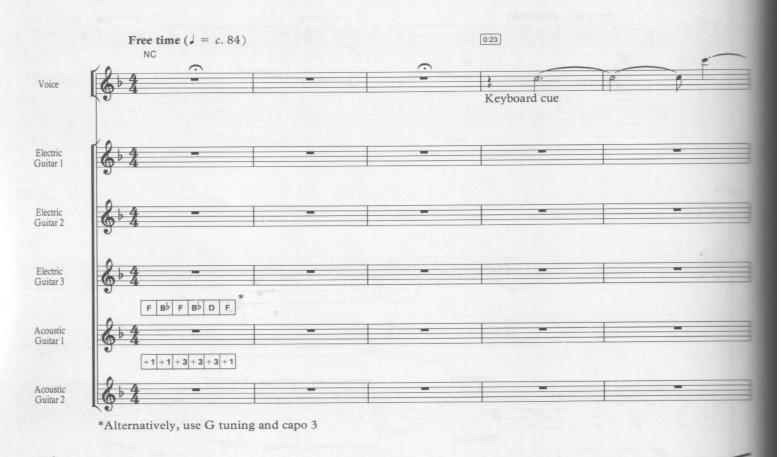






## telegraph road

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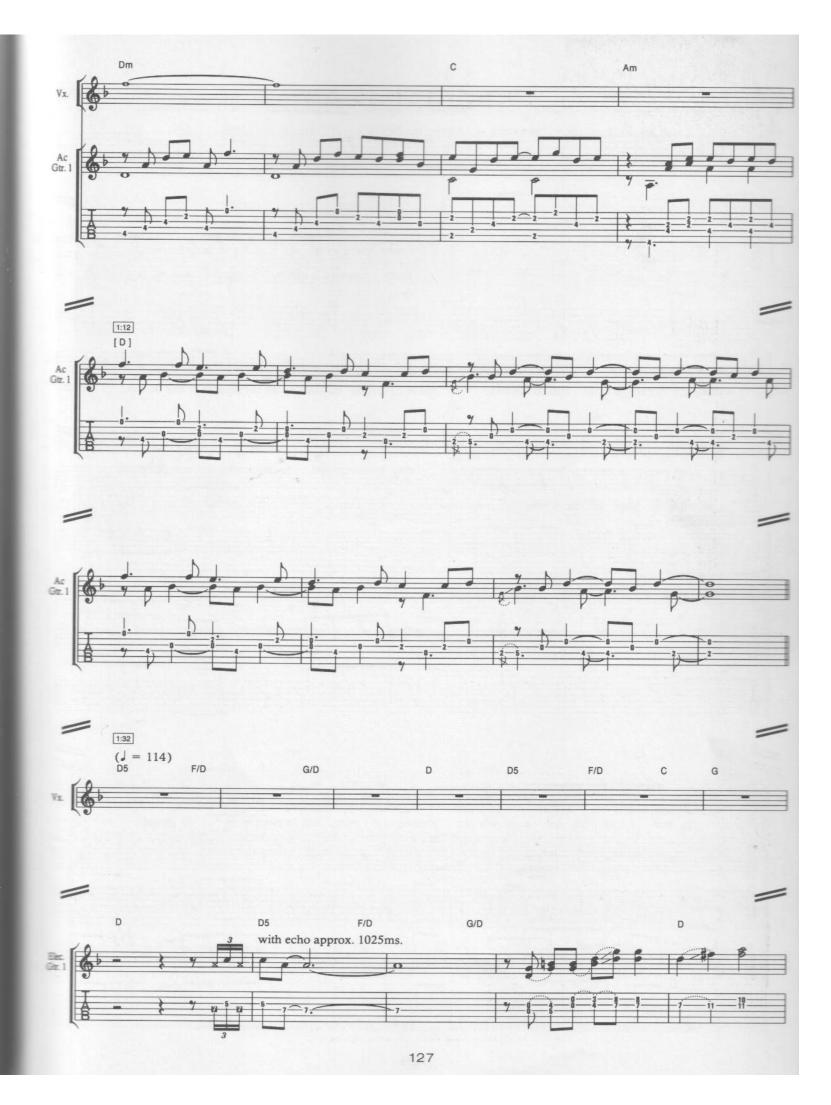


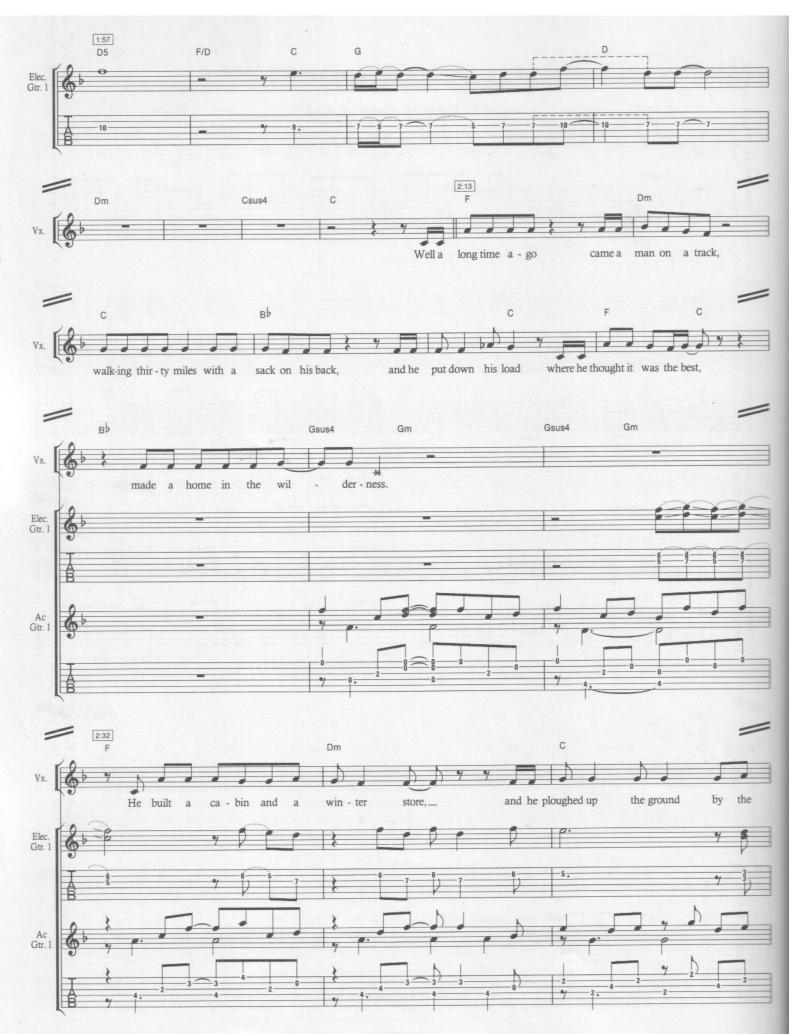


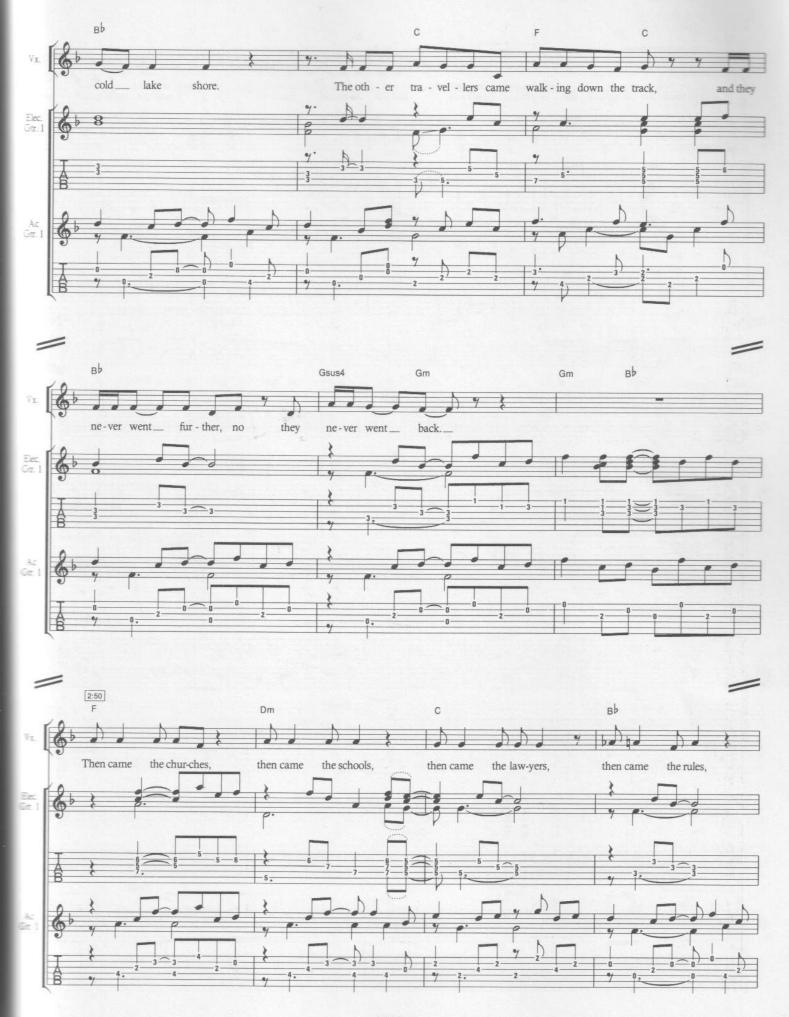
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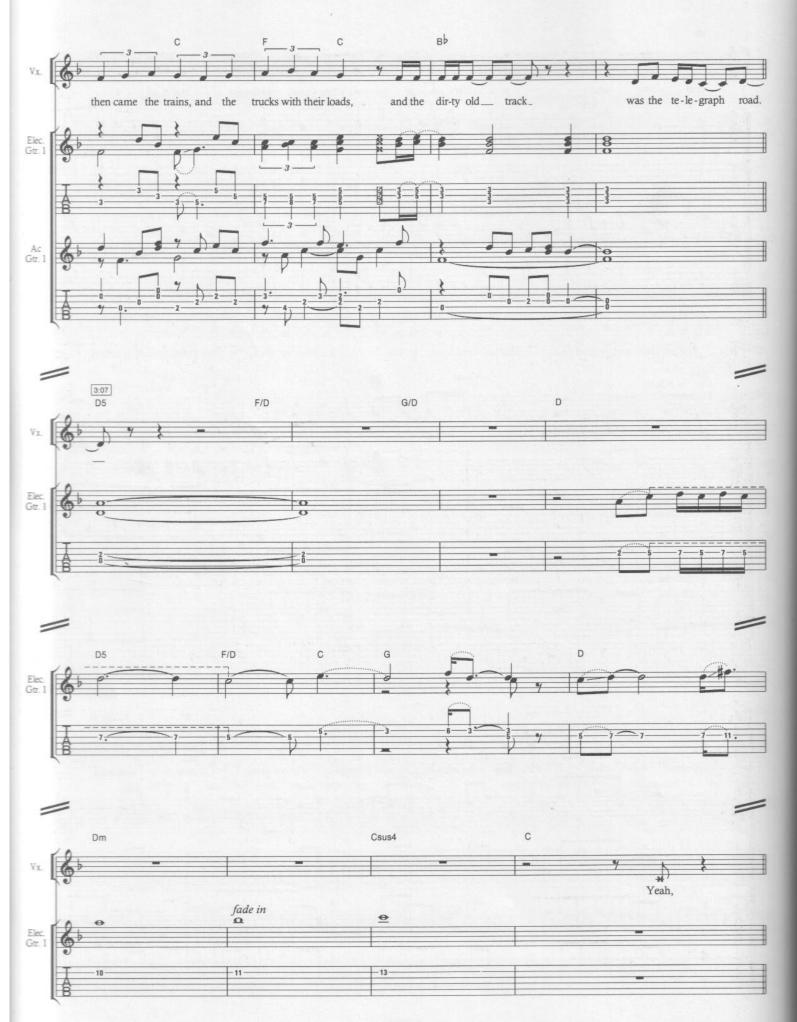
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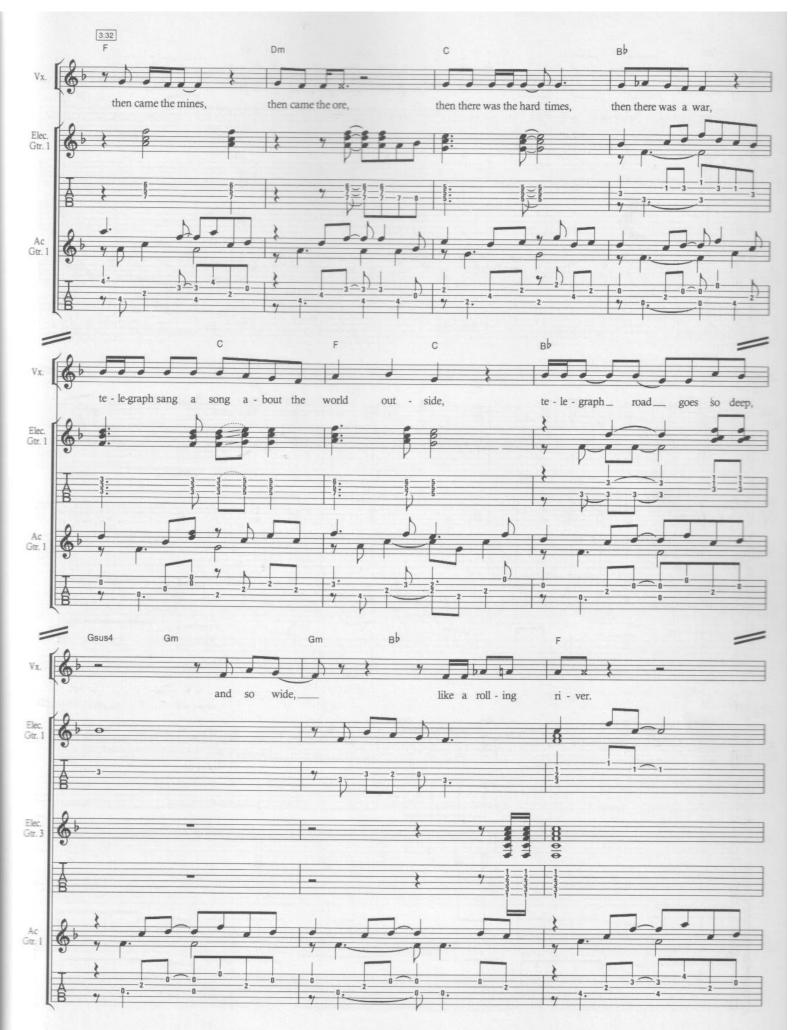
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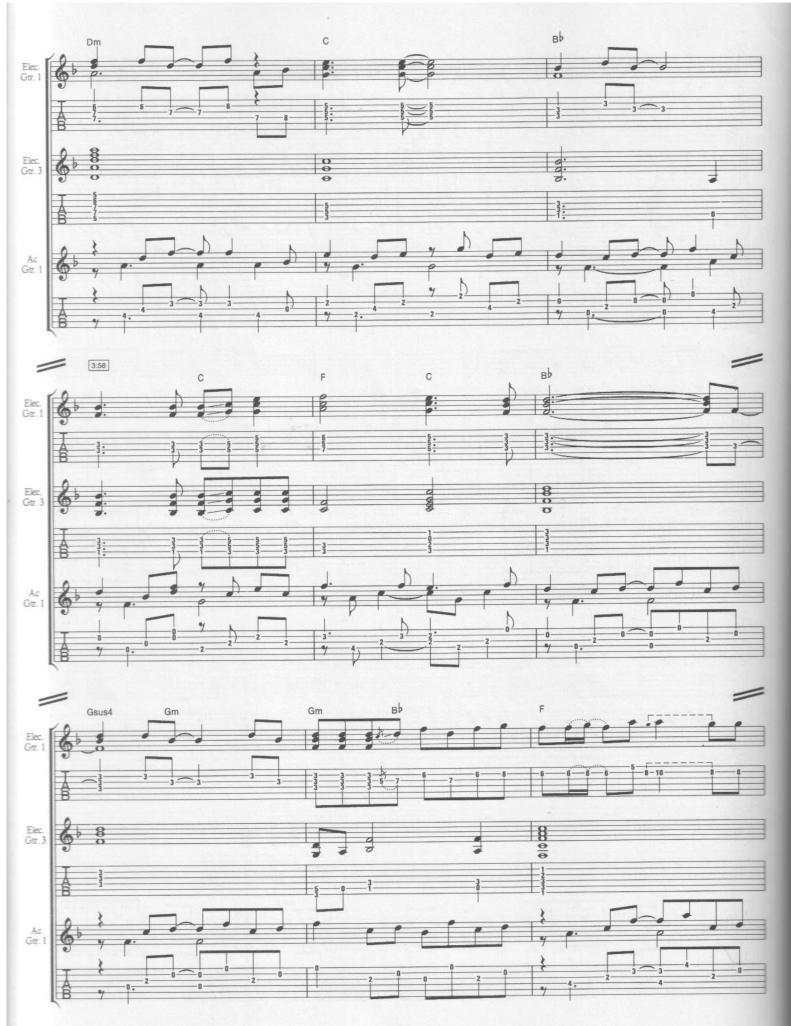




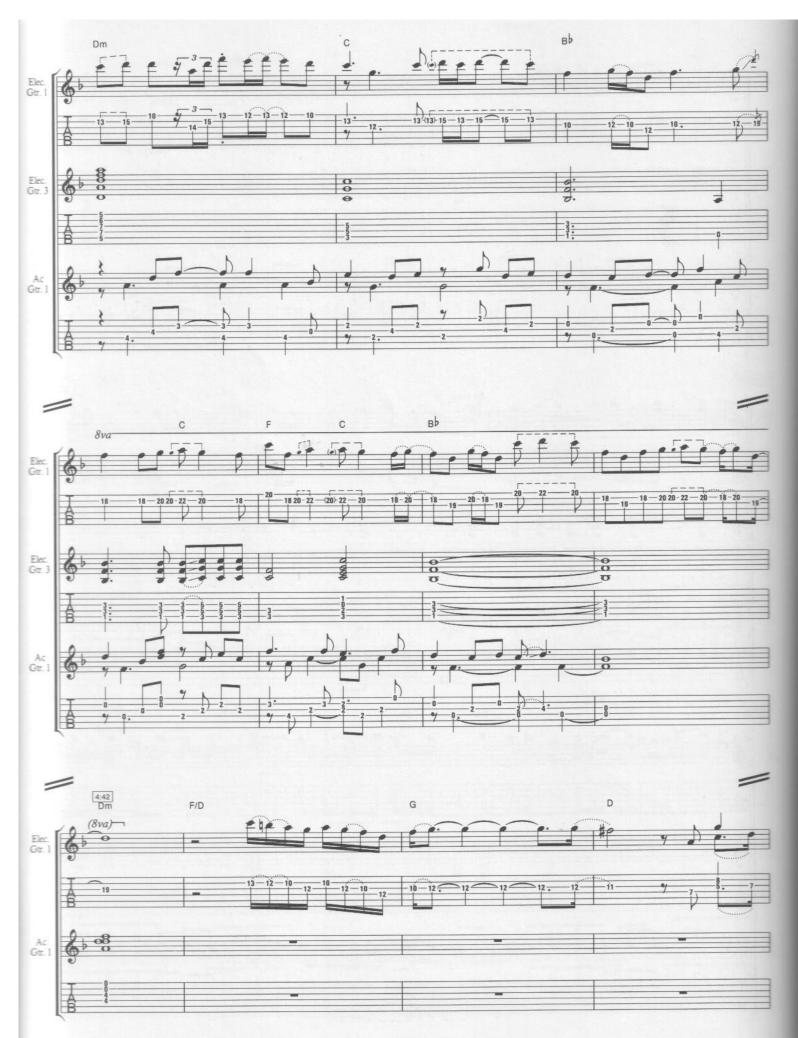




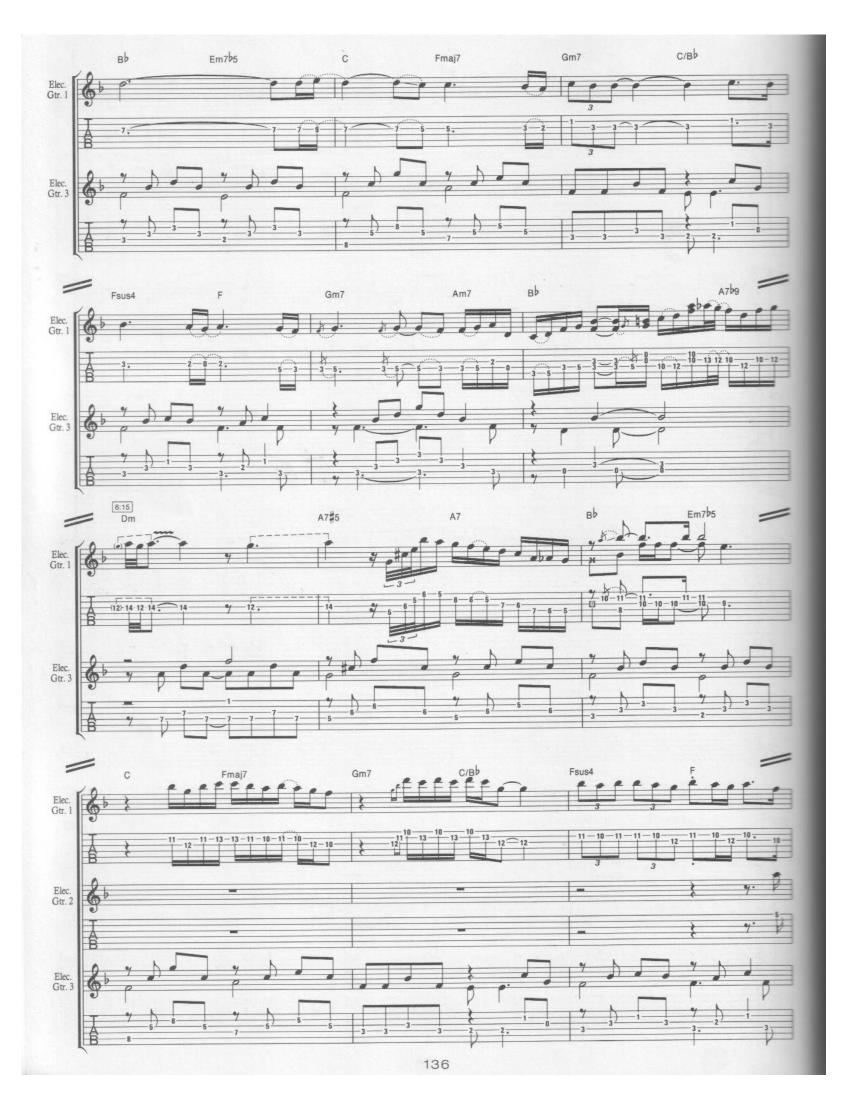










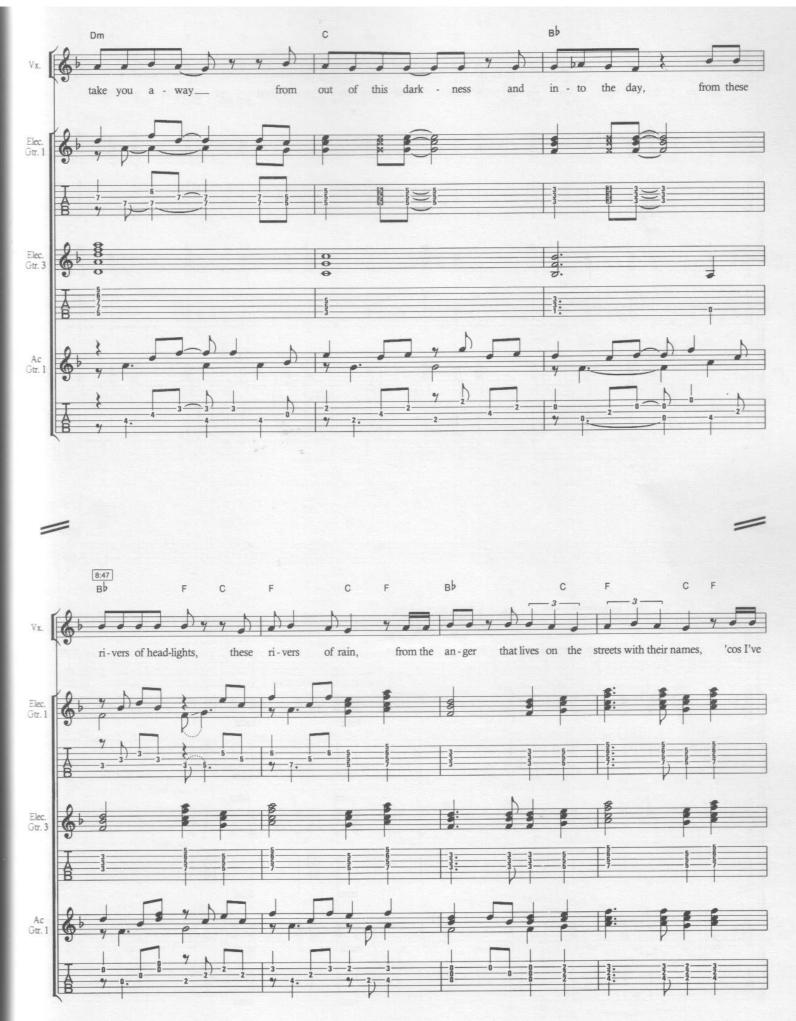


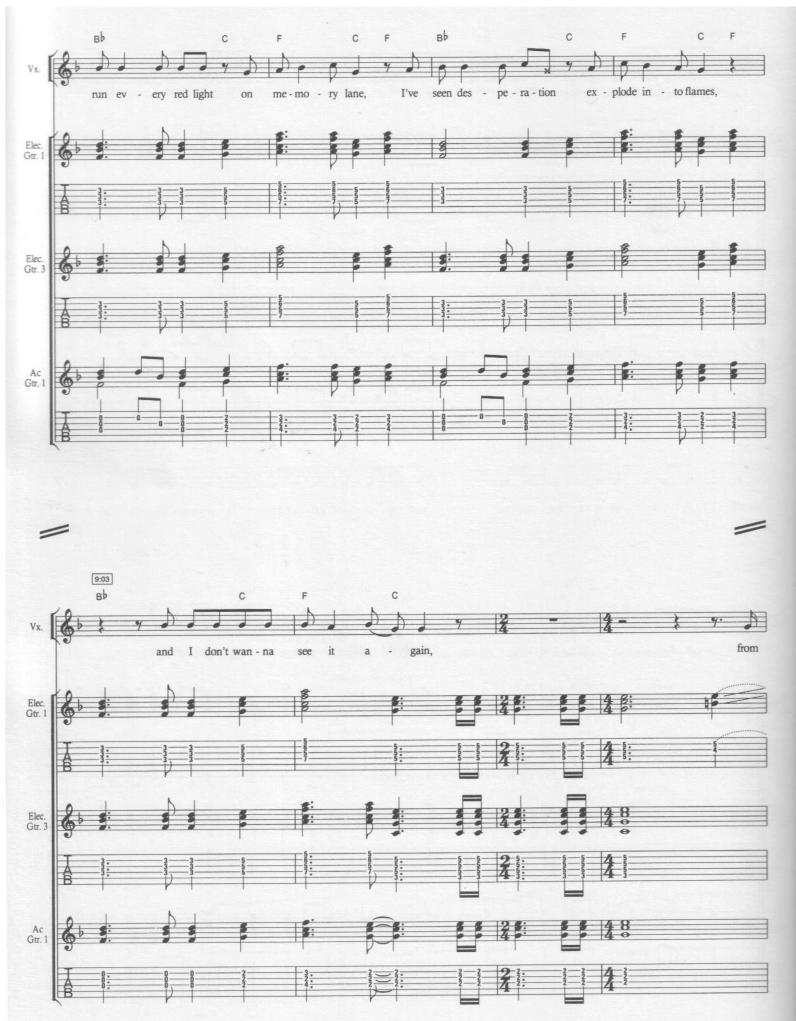




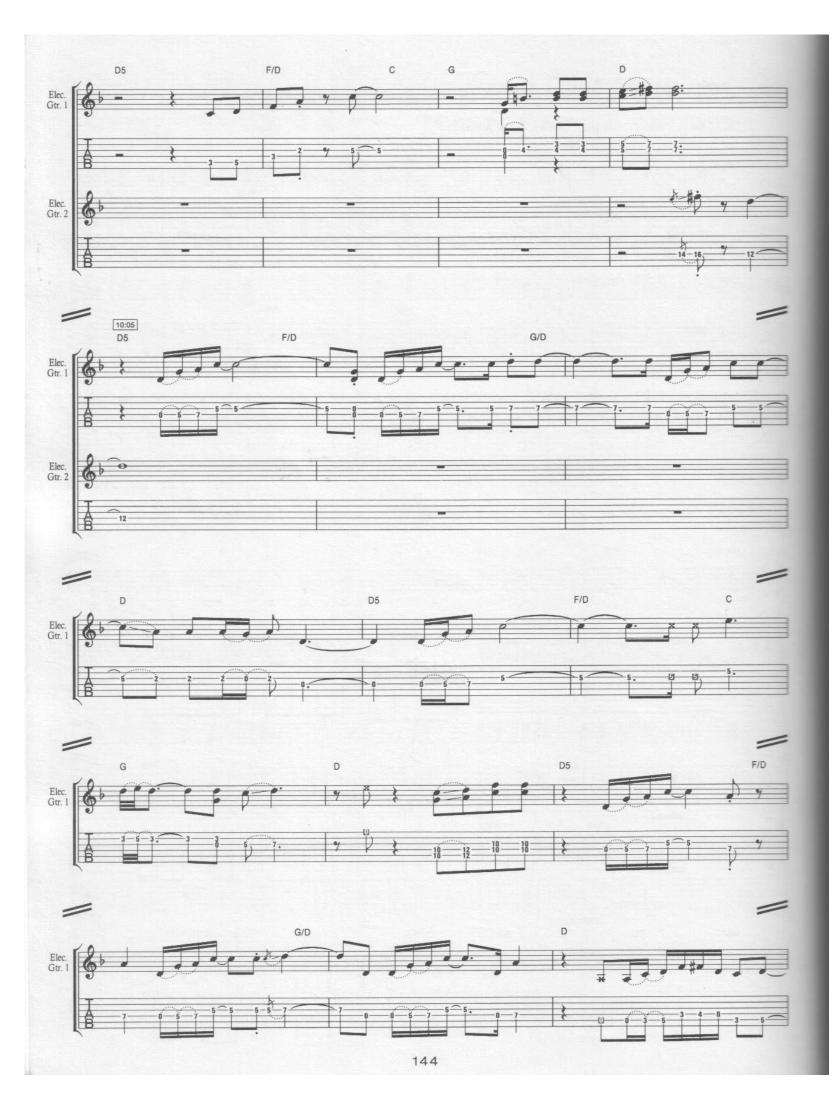


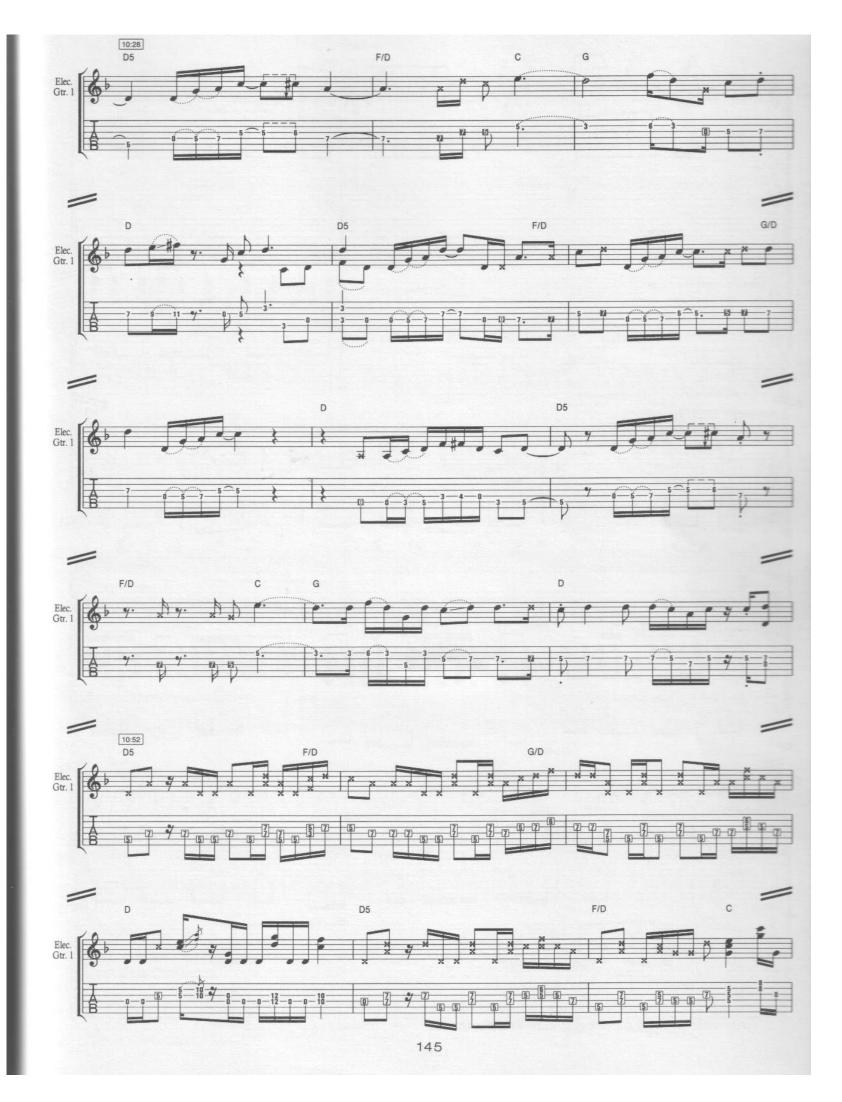






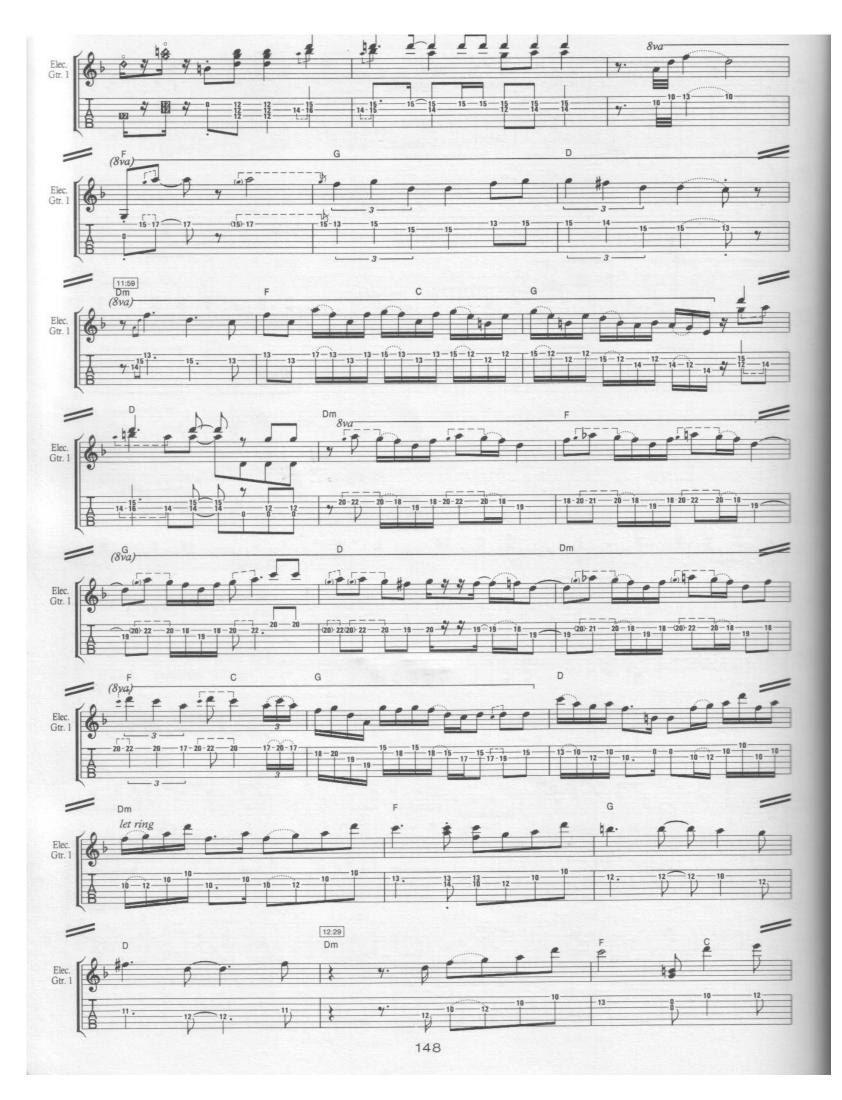


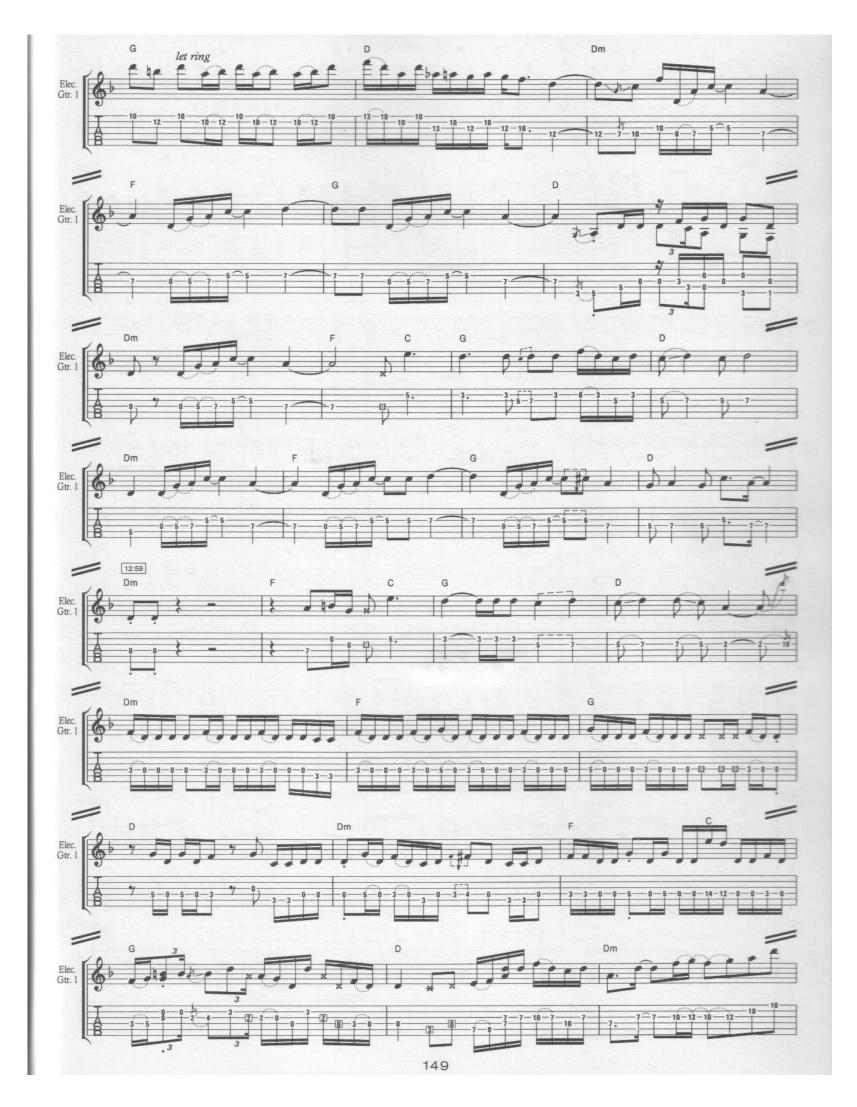














### notation & tablature explained





Bent Notes:

The note fretted is always shown first. Variations in pitch achieved by string bending are enclosed within this symbol  $\lceil \rceil \rceil$ . If you aren't sure how far to bend the string, playing the notes indicated without bending gives a guide to the pitches to aim for. The following examples cover the most common string bending techniques:



Example 1:

Play the D, bend up one tone (two half-steps) to E.



Example 4:

Pre-bend: fret the D, bend up one tone to E, then pick.



Example 2:

Play the D, bend up one tone to E then release bend to sound D. Only the first note is picked.



Example 5:

Play the A and D together, then bend the B-string up one tone to sound B.



Example 3:

Fast bend: Play the D, then bend up one tone to E as quickly as possible.



Example 6

Play the D and F# together, then bend the G-string up one tone to E, and the B-string up  $\frac{1}{2}$  tone to G.

Additional guitaristic techniques have been notated as follows:



### Tremolo Bar:

Alter pitch using tremolo bar. Where possible, the pitch to aim for is shown.

a) Play the G; use the bar to drop the

pitch to E.

b) Play the open G; use the bar to 'divebomb', i.e. drop the pitch as far as possible.



#### Mutes:

#### a) Right hand mute:

Mute strings by resting the right hand on the strings just above the bridge.

b) Left hand mute:

Damp the strings by releasing left hand pressure just after the notes sound.

c) Unpitched mute:

Damp the strings with the left hand to produce a percussive sound.



#### Hammer on and Pull off:

Play first note, sound next note by 'hammering on', the next by 'pulling off'. Only the first note is picked.



#### Glissando:

 a) Play first note, sound next note by sliding up string. Only the first note is picked.

b) As above, but pick second note.



#### **Artificial Harmonics:**

Fret the lowest note, touch string over fret indicated by diamond notehead and pick. Small notes show the resultant pitch.



#### Natural Harmonics:

Touch the string over the fret marked, and pick to produce a bell-like tone. The small notes show the resultant pitch, where necessary.



#### Pinch Harmonics:

Fret the note as usual, but 'pinch' or 'squeeze' the string with the picking hand to produce a harmonic overtone. Small notes show the resultant pitch.



#### Quarter-tones:

A downwards arrow means the written pitch is lowered by a quarter-tone; an upwards arrow raises the written pitch by a quarter-tone.



Non-standard tunings are shown as 'tuning boxes'. Each box represents one guitar string, the leftmost box corresponding to the lowest pitched string. The symbol '\*' in a box means the pitch of the corresponding string is not altered. A note within a box means the string must be re-tuned as stated. For tablature readers, numbers appear in the boxes. The numbers represent the number of half-steps the string must be tuned up or down. The tablature relates to an instrument tuned as stated.



#### Vibrato:

Apply vibrato, by 'shaking' note or with tremolo bar. As vibrato is so much a matter of personal taste and technique, it is indicated only where essential.



#### Tapping:

Sound notes indicated by tapping - hammering-on with the picking hand at the indicated fret.



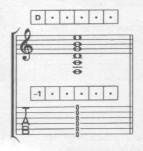
#### Pick Scratch:

Scrape the pick down the strings – this works best on the wound strings.



#### Repeated Chords:

To make rhythm guitar parts easier to read the tablature numbers may be omitted when a chord is repeated. The example shows a C major chord played naturally, r/h muted, l/h muted and as an unpitched mute respectively.



Tune the low E (6th) string down one tone (two half-steps) to D.

#### Chord naming:

The following chord naming convention has been used. Note that chord symbols show the overall harmony, sometimes simplified, and are not intended to indicate a suitable accompaniment. Altered 5ths are shown as 'dim5' or 'aug5', whilst alterations to added notes are indicated by '#' or 'b'.



Where there is no appropriate chord symbol, for example when the music consists of a repeated figure (or riff) the tonal base is indicated in parenthesis: [C]

Where it was not possible to transcribe a passage, the symbol ~ appears.